

The Aruba Tourism Authority just recently honored 16 individuals who contributed to the development of tourism on the island, recognizing the important role they played in Aruba's journey which started more than 50 years ago.



Jesus "Joy" Kock performed at the opening day of the 'Grand Dame' Aruba Caribbean Hotel and Casino with the band 'Los Duques del Caribe'. For the next 40 years he provided music entertainment to the guests at all the high rise hotels as the music director of several orchestras and bands. As the President of ASOMA, Mr. Joy Kock also lobbied with the hotels for the inclusion of local professional bands as part of the hotel entertainment.

We thank and recognize Jesus "Joy" Kock.



Louis Pavlis

In 1961, the then General Manager of Manchebo Beach Hotel, called Louis Pavlis to request him to take care of a show at the hotel. Louis didn't know what kind of show he wanted. He just had a bunch of dancers in costumes. He then decided that it would be exciting to start performing with a carnival show. That was the start of Carnival shows as an important part of local entertainment in hotels which is still going strong to this date. Louis expanded his shows to include water ballet shows. He continued in the show business for hotels for 17 years, producing different shows at different hotels. We thank and recognize Louis Pavlis



Charlie Brouns Junior

Charlie's Bar was founded in 1941. Both Charlie Senior and Charlie Junior took on the challenge of developing San Nicolas as a tourist attraction. They focused their efforts on supporting sports activities, local culture and the environment... Charlie's Bar and Restaurant became a tourist attraction and a gathering place for locals and tourists, a good reason to visit San Nicolas and widely covered by the international media. We thank and recognize Charlie Brouns. Charlie Brouns the 3rd received this recognition.

More on Pages 8 & 9

Local Customers Meet With Marriott's Area Team

Marriott Hosts Christmas In July Reception



PALM BEACH – On Monday evening July 20th the Sales & Marketing team of the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino hosted a Christmas in July reception for local customers. The intimate party took place in the Resort's Ballroom, where the majority of Christmas festivities are to take place in December. By means of this reception Marriott's Sales team showcased its services and special offerings for the upcoming Holiday season this year.




One of the special offers being showcased during the reception was a Christmas celebration for smaller companies to be held on December 11 in the Grand Ballroom. Groups of 10 people or more can make reservations for this celebration in the privacy of their own table(s), while having the opportunity to mingle with other guests

and dancing to the tunes of NBO and a gaita group.

The special Christmas reception also formed the décor for an informal get-together of Marriott's Area Team and representatives of Aruban companies who have become loyal customers to Marriott or considering this hotel for future events.

Continued on Next Page





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TUESDAY BIG MAC





Continued from Front Page
Special guests to the reception were Andrew Houghton, area vice president for Marriott in the Caribbean and Brazil, Carlos Olguin, area director of revenue strategy for the Caribbean region and south America, Christine Holter, regional vice president of revenue strategy and Kevin

Marriott Hosts Christmas In July Reception



Tanzola, area director of finance. During the reception chairman of the international hotel company, Mr Bill Marriott also addressed a few words to the local customers present in a special video message.

Mr. Marriott visited Aruba in February of this year and was impressed with both the islands' development as well as the \$50 million make over of the Aruba Marriott Resort. He personally thanked all customers present for their loyalty, as did Director of Sales & Marketing John Woolley during a short speech, expressing his appreciation for everybody's attendance in the Grand Ballroom.

Designated among the "World's Best Places to Stay" by Conde Nast Traveler's 2006 Gold List, Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 fully renovated guestrooms – the most spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 888-PARADISE or visit www.arubamarriott.com.

Marriott and Renaissance Caribbean & Mexico Resorts is comprised of ten resorts in seven of the top tropical destinations in the Caribbean and Mexico – Aruba, Cancun, Curaçao, Grand Cayman, Puerto Vallarta, St. Kitts and St. Thomas. To experience these resorts and learn about special promotions, please visit the new www.ParadiseByMarriott.com. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Aruba, Italy qualify for tournament



By Ernie Clark
BDN Staff

Teams representing Aruba and Italy have joined the field for the 2009 Senior League World Series that will be held Aug. 16-22 at Mansfield Stadium in Bangor.

The Aruba South Little League of San Nicholas, Aruba, won the Latin America qualifying tournament Sunday, while the Friuli Venezia Giulia Little League of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy, won the Europe-Middle East-Africa title.

This will mark the first time a team from either Aruba or Italy has played in the SLWS since the event moved to Bangor in 2002.

Aruba advanced through a 12-team Latin America tournament held at Yabucoa, Puerto Rico, defeating the host team 19-5 in Sunday's championship game.

Aruba went undefeated in seven regional tournament games, including 5-0 in pool play with victories over Cartagena, Colombia, (11-3), Guyama, Puerto Rico (6-3), Philipsburg, Saint Maarten (11-1), Chitre, Panama (6-2) and Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (14-4).

The champs then defeated Maracaibo, Venezuela, 9-5 in the semifinals.

Yabucoa, Puerto Rico, lost its first game of pool play to Guatemala City, Guatemala (6-4) before rebounding with four straight pool victories, including one-run wins over St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands (2-1) and Willemstad, Curacao (8-7) to advance to the semifinals.

The host team edged Panama 8-7 to earn its berth in the championship game.

The Latin American champion has had considerable success at the SLWS during its stay in Bangor, going 25-9 overall and 21-7 in pool play, an effort highlighted by the world titles won by Falcon, Venezuela, in 2006 and Willemstad, Curacao, in 2002.

The Latin American qualifier has advanced from pool play to the semifinals in six of the last seven years, and also reached the world championship game each of the last two years, with Falcon, Venezuela, losing to Cartersville, Ga., 9-0 in 2007 and Willemstad, Curacao falling to Upper Deerfield, N.J., 10-8, last summer.

Aruba will open play in this year's Senior League World Series with a Pool B game against the U.S. Central champion at 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16.

Italy will play its first game at Mansfield Stadium earlier that day in a 5:30 p.m. start against the U.S. East champion.

Italy went 3-2 in preliminary-round play at the EMEA qualifying tournament held at Ramstein, Germany, defeating teams from Moldova, Mannheim, Germany, and the Netherlands while losing to the Ramstein Air Force Base Little League and Vilnius, Lithuania.

That effort was good enough to qualify the Italian squad as the third seed for the semifinals where it edged Ramstein AFB 7-6 before topping the Kvint Little

League of Tiraspol, Moldova, 10-6 in the championship game.

Moldova, which also finished 3-2 in preliminary-round play, defeated Lithuania 5-1 in its semifinal.

Italy will attempt to improve on EMEA's performance in previous Senior League World Series held in Bangor.

That regional champion is 4-24 in seven previous appearances

and has yet to advance beyond pool play.

Moscow, Russia, went 2-2 in 2003, while the 2002 Moscow team finished 1-3 and Tbilisi, Georgia, went 1-3 in 2006 to account for EMEA's other SLWS wins.

Teams from Vilnius, Lithuania, went 0-4 each of the last two years.

Italy and Aruba join Asia-Pacific champion Makati City,

Philippines, as teams that already have qualified for the 10-team SLWS field.

The next team to qualify will come Wednesday when the host Maine District 3 champion is crowned. The Canadian champion as well as U.S. regional winners from the East, South, Southwest, Central and West will be determined between Aug. 11 and Aug. 13. □

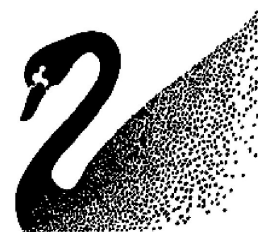


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After Fun-filled Trip Press Truly Enjoying The Playground For All Generations

Marriott Bids Farewell to USA Press Members



PALM BEACH – After a fun filled program of 3 full days on the island, on Monday morning July 20th the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino bid farewell to the last participants of a USA press group. The media visit concentrated around family fun as Marriott is Aruba’s playground for all generations and the island is a perfect fit for any type of family vacations.

The press group, consisting of 4 journalists, two children and one cousin, experienced a fun filled day at De Palm Island on Friday July 17, including the waterslides, seatrek and snuba. In the afternoon all press members got to try a first

class in beach tennis, provided by Aruba’s beach tennis pro’s at the official beach tennis courts at Moomba Beach, followed by refreshing sunset cocktails. The day ended with a dance party for the generation that grew up in the 80-ies and listened to the tunes of Michael Jackson, during the ‘back to the 80-ies’ party in Marriott’s Grand Ballroom.

On Saturday the USA media explored the island by means of a Jeep Safari provided by De Palm Tours. At the Ostrich Farm the press members got to see the long necked animals as well as get a taste of them at the neighboring Savana Restaurant. The



farewell dinner will be held at Marriott’s sunset restaurant Simply Fish, located right on the beach in front of the hotel.

While the adults on this trip enjoyed their freshly caught seafood, Taylor Pitts (10) was hosted by executive sous chef Alejo Garcia to learn how to make her own pizza at Marriott’s La Vista Restaurant. More fun followed in the resort’s Bon Bini Kids Club with games, a movie and a tie dye class.

Designated among the “World’s Best Places to Stay” by Conde Nast Traveler’s 2006 Gold List, Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 fully renovated guestrooms – the most spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies overlooking the sparkling



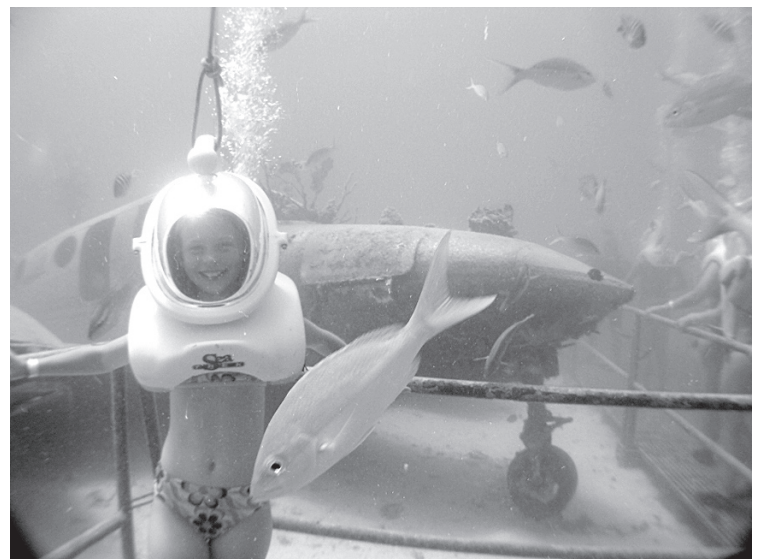
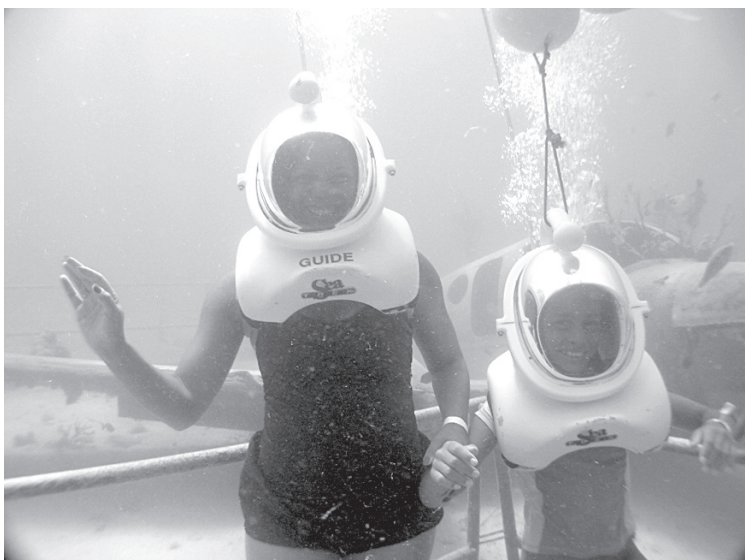
waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions.

To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 888-

PARADISE or visit www.arubamarriott.com.

In the pictures: USA media members enjoying De Palm Tours’ Jeep Safari, De Palm Island with seatrek and snuba activities, beach tennis lessons at Moomba, and a farewell dinner at Simply Fish.

Executive sous chef Alejo Garcia teaching Taylor Pitts (10) how to create a pizza at La Vista Restaurant. □





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August 6th	Crystal	AWG 7500
August 13th	Seaport	AWG 7500
August 20th	Crystal	AWG 7500 + weekend stay
August 27th	Seaport	AWG 7500 + weekend stay
September 3rd	Crystal	AWG 7500
September 10th	Seaport	AWG 7500
September 17th	Crystal	AWG 7500 + weekend stay
September 24th	Seaport	AWG 7500 + weekend stay

For more information please call: 523-6318 of 523-6437
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Very Productive Meeting: Valuable Information And Suggestions Came Forth Mike Eman Extends Invitation To Ex Police Commissioners To Talk About The Situation In Aruba

ORANJESTAD - Upon the invitation of Mike Eman, the energetic opposition leader, yet another meeting took place, and this time with three prominent members of our community, three people who are experts in police and justice matters; three people with extensive experience and knowledge in said fields. They are three ex police commissioners, Mr. Jan van der Straten, Mr. A. Nectar and Mr. R. Peterson. Unfortunately Mr. Rasmijn

could not be present. Also present was Luciano Millard. The meeting took place in an excellent ambiance which was very important because mr. Eman received a lot of valuable information and suggestions that surely need to be put into practice during the next administration. All three men deliberated extensively with Eman on different topics of concern and insecurity that also govern in our community. Many serious and troubling



issues that we deal with every day here on Aruba were discussed. One issue that came forth was that the situation on Aruba needed to be approached integrally. There are problems in many fields, on many levels and many of them are in one way or another connected with each other. Crime among the youth can be prevented if there is a caring system that works well and if all institutions work together. There was also

talk of the problem regarding the "chollers", which we all have something to do with in one way or another, and about how we can come up with a structural solution. The same goes for the increasing criminal activities that are punishing our island. The idea of a District Police is a good one and should be reinforced with the help of young and motivated policemen. Something must be done regarding the sale

of illegal drugs. The police commissioner must be given all liberty to work without political influence. Everyone agreed on this point, because without this you can never have a working Police Force. The police must receive that which they have the right to by law and also the necessary tools for them to be able to do their jobs correctly.

These are only a few of the many issues that were discussed. Many issues came forth and of course many suggestions and solutions as well and there is still much to be discussed. All three ex police commissioners found Mike Eman's idea, to hold a meeting to deliberate on topics that concern one and all on this island, an extremely good. □



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PALM BEACH - Red Sail Sports' catamaran will take you on an unforgettable journey: the Mexican Dinner Sail. Your trip includes a Live Mariachi Band, Mexican Food and an open bar with Tequila, Coronitas and Margaritas. The Mexican Party Sails on Friday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing aboard Red Sail Sports' top quality, luxurious catamarans.

Set sail and join Red Sail Sports Half Day Luncheon Snorkel Sail or the romantic Sunset Sail. Red Sail Sports also offers a Dinner Sail which combines a sail along Aruba's scenic coastline and a spectacular view of the sunset with a tantalizing buffet catered by award-winning chefs. If you want to discover Aruba's underwater world, be sure to get in touch with Red Sail Sports. Learn to dive in one



day with the Discover Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives. Red Sail Sports is Aruba's lead-in dive and watersports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island.

To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsail-aruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.



"Early Bird: daily 5-7pm
3-course dinner
for \$29.75 per person"

Experience Papillon's gripping story! Introducing a catching special for the early Birds

PALM BEACH - Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping...

auto-biography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana. Papillon restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

Early Bird

Papillon Restaurant offers a daily Early Bird special. A delicious 3-course meal with a glass of house wine for just \$29.75 per person between 5pm and 7pm

Opening hours

Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 586 5400 or go to www.papillonaruba.com.

Papillon Restaurant is located in The Village, just across from the Radisson Resort.

Papillon
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Kitchen open every day from 5pm till 10.30pm. Early Bird from 5pm till 7pm.
All major credit cards accepted. Reservations recommended.
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Harold Malmberg and Ramon Richardson

In 1971, Mr. Wichí de Palm sold his company, De Palm Tours, to Mr. Harold Malmberg and Mr. Ramon Richardson. They restructured the entire company to comply with the needs of the times and expanded the services of organized transportation for our guests. Ramon Richardson joined forces with Harold Malmberg until 1983 and he also contributed in many tourism promotion opportunities for Aruba. Harold Malmberg founded De Palm Corporation expanding his services to the guests to include watersports, De Palm Island and destination management services, providing many services to accommodate the growing tourism markets and demands. Today, De Palm Corporation is one of the largest transportation companies and destination management service companies and has been contributing with the development of Aruba for the past 38 years. We would like to recognize and thank Mr. Ramon Richardson and Mr. Harold Malmberg. Mr. Ramon Richardson will receive his recognition. We will make sure Mr. Malmberg receives his as well



Eduardo de Veer has played an important role in raising the level of Aruba's tourism product to an even higher level. At the closure of the Lago Oil & Transport Company in 1985, when the government of Aruba took the historical decision to create new employment by developing tourism as a major pillar of the economy, Eduardo de Veer stepped up to the plate. Eduardo de Veer, founder of MetaCorp, opened the 300 room Aruba Sonesta Resort & Casino including a Shopping Mall, Marina and Sonesta Island in 1989. In 1993 MetaCorp also purchased the 260 suites Harbour Town Resort & Casino including the Marketplace. Two years after that, in 1995 MetaCorp redeveloped the Queen Wilhelmina Park as well as the Harbour Town complex into Sonesta Suites. In 1999, the convention center was built, thereby providing more facilities and opening more doors for the promotion of the meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions market for Aruba. Eduardo de Veer's projects through MetaCorp, embellished downtown Oranjestad and is one of the local companies providing major employment in the tourism sector to this date. We thank and recognize Mr. Eduardo de Veer



Raymond Maduro pioneered and successfully introduced the novel concept of fractional ownership, otherwise known as timeshare, outside the USA and in his native country of Aruba. His first project, opened in 1977, was the Aruba Beach Club with 133 suites. Thereafter followed his other projects such as Playa Linda, Casa del Mar and Costa Linda. Fractional ownership has created the potential for repeat visitation and loyalty which has become an important factor in the success of Aruba's tourism. Another very important project was the Tierra del Sol Master Planned Community & Robert Trent Jones golf course, - the first professional golf course which opened up a new niche market for the island and has become an important addition to the guest's experience as a vacation destination. Sun Plaza Shopping & Office Center and La Trattoria El Faro Blanco Restaurant were other projects on Raymond's curriculum. We thank and recognize Mr. Raymond Maduro.



Ewald Biemans

Ewald Biemans moved to Aruba in 1969 where he was given the opportunity to manage a Food and Beverage operation and open a new nightclub on the island namely the famous Talk of the Town Restaurant at the Coral Strand Hotel. The nightclub went on to become a huge success and led to Biemans managing a variety of hospitality, travel and tourism businesses, including two resort hotels. Biemans also founded Aruba's airline catering company today called Calloway. Biemans opened his own hotel, the Bucuti Beach Resort in 1987. Bucuti Beach Resort has won numerous awards for its environmentally responsible and successful hotel operation over the last six years. Bucuti Beach Resort's owner and general manager, Ewald Biemans was awarded the prestigious CHA Hotelier of the Year award in 2002. Bucuti Beach has also received ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 14001 certification and Green Globe 21 Certification. We thank and recognize Ewald Biemans.



Ike Cohen, RIP

In 1964 Ike Cohen with the help of Ernie Kervel acquired the Strand Hotel that later became the Coral Strand Hotel and afterwards was named after their famous restaurant Talk of the Town. In the seventies, under the umbrella of the Talk of the Town, Ike Cohen started an airline catering business. This business grew and by the early eighties Aruba Catering Services opened at the Surfside location. In the early nineties Calloway Corporation was founded. In the early seventies Ike bought The Eight Continent (catering business) and the Manchebo Beach Hotel. Ike Cohen is also the founder of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association and was named the first hotelier of the year by the Caribbean Hotel Association in 1978. The recognition was delivered to family members and the Ike Cohen foundation, posthumously.



Herman Ponson, better known as Manchito

In the early 1950's, even before the Aruba Caribbean was built, Herman "Manchito" Ponson built a boat of about 15 feet. "Manchito" built a GLASS BOTTOM in this boat because he was a DIVER and he wanted to be able to look at the beauty in the bottom of the sea. This became the first glass bottom boat on the island. Before long, "Manchito" discovered that tourists wanted to take a trip in his glass bottom boat. So he started to take tourists for a tour on his boat, thus adding to Aruba's activities at that time. According to Manchito, many important American visitors have sailed in Manchito's small boat, all of them looking through the glass bottom to discover Aruba's beautiful marine life. We want to thank and recognize Herman "Manchito" Ponson.



Eline Bartels-Daal

Eline Bartels Daal came to Aruba in October 1966 and opened the Manchebo Beach Hotel on December 16, 1966. In 1971 she was working at the Holiday Inn and created a package called 'plan 5 estrellas'. This package, designed for the Caribbean and South American visitors sold 10 million dollars in one year. She was given the nickname; 'la gordita de oro' by South America and was credited for opening the South American market for Aruba. In 1976 she was awarded with the title of Woman of the Year. South America has remained a strong market for Aruba and is currently still the second market in importance for the island. We thank and recognize Eline Bartels Daal, who was unable to attend the festivities.



Lloyd K. Jean-Baptiste

In 1967, Mr. Ike Cohen, contracted Mr. Lloyd Jean-Baptiste for his voice and his talent to entertain. Mr. Cohen hired him to sing and entertain at what was to be called- Happy Hours -- at the Talk of the Town. This was a roaring success and since that time, HAPPY HOURS became a standard on the island and Lloyd Baptiste continued to entertain many crowds at Happy Hours and other functions until this day. We thank and recognize Lloyd Baptiste.

Oscar Henriquez

Oscar Henriquez's contributed greatly to the development of Aruba's tourism industry was As the Commissioner of Finance, Economic Affairs and Tourism from 1955 to 1963 he had complete involvement in the preparation of the early development of what was to become a successful tourism industry. At the time he was also President of the government-sponsored company named NV Aruven which was responsible for planning, financing and negotiating the construction and management contracts for the Aruba Caribbean Hotel, the Aruba Sheraton Hotel and the Americana Hotel. We recognize and thank Mr. Oscar Henriquez.



Eduardo Ellis

In 1963 Eduardo Ellis accepted his first position at the Aruba Caribbean Hotel as the night auditor. Later on he became the first Aruban to attain the position of Food and Beverage Manager in the hotel sector and later on he became the General Manager of the 'Grande Dame' until it was closed for renovations. In 1984 Eduardo and his family took over the Papiamento Restaurant in town, and later relocated the restaurant to their own house in Washington. For the past 25 years to this day they have contributed with culinary excellence to Aruba's guests in a cozy and warm family atmosphere. We thank and recognize Eduardo Ellis and family.



Luis 'Wichi' de Palm, RIP

In the early days, Luis "Wichi" de Palm recognized the need for our tourists to move around on the island and wanted to provide structured and reliable transportation. In January of 1960, he started his own transportation business and named it De Palm Tours. For the next 12 years he successfully managed his company. During these years, he also actively participated in the promotion of Aruba abroad.

He also played an important role with Trans Caribbean Airlines and the promotion of incentive groups. In 1972, Luis "Wichi" de Palm sold De Palm Tours to Raymond Richardson and Harold Malmberg. From 1974 to 1977 Wichi functioned as the Manager of Public Relations and Sales at the Talk of the Town and the Manchebo Beach Hotel. We thank and recognize Mr. Luis "Wichi" de Palm, his recognition was accepted by Nelson Palm, son of Wichi, posthumously.





CasaTua Barcelona Downtown & Pizzeria Palm Beach

The Casa Tua Barcelona downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating while the Pizzeria Palm Beach location serves their guests on a cozy outside terrace.

Both restaurants serve the same brick-oven thin crusted pizzas and both pour the same homemade Sangria. Where the restaurants differ from each other is certain menu items and the opening hours. Casa Tua Barcelona downtown is open for lunch with delicious lunch specials from Monday till Friday. One lunch special is a \$ 9.95 Beef Tenderloin with red wine sauce. All nights of the week Casa Tua Barcelona serves Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you should choose the



fabulous Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by the chef!

The staff at both popular eateries have set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dining pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

Casa Tua Barcelona offers a live flamenco show on Fridays while you can enjoy daily live music at Pizzeria Arawak. Wherever you decide to go, you won't be disappointed.



At Arawak Gardens enjoy the EarlyBird Special:
From 5.30 – 7.00 for \$ 19.95

Choice: Soup or Salad as appetizer, Chicken Breast Francesa or Linguini Pomodoro or Penne Pesto or Pasta Carbonara as main course and a choice of Flan a l'orange or chocolate mousse as dessert.

Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown
open from 11.30am – 10.30pm,
Sundays from 5pm – 10.30pm Tel.
588 5695

Casa Tua Pizzeria Palm Beach
open from 5pm to 11pm 7 days a
week tel 586 8470

The Coconut Trading Co., is Stocked with Gorgeous Gifts



Palm Beach -- The Coconut Trading Company displays gifts personally selected by owner Jodi Tobman, a Boston native and longtime Aruba resident, and you are invited to discover extraordinary treasures handcrafted by skilled artisans and colorfully displayed in a beach house



ambiance in the lobby of the Marriott Ocean Club, and at a second just-opened location at the Village on Palm Beach.

Every corner of the store attracts the eye with a dazzling assortment of gifts and home accents that command attention; strikingly designed photo frames, candle holders and snuffers, serving pieces to dress every picnic table up and dazzling glass accents: a virtual potpourri of tropical and distinctive gifts to grace any home.

The stores also stock a fine selection of creative sterling jewelry, handcrafted with precious gems, sea glass, turquoise and fresh water pearls, which can be found artfully arranged, beckoning to be worn. Find extraordinary gifts for all of your family members and friends, there's something for everyone on your list, not to forget yourself!

Popular with repeat visitors and locals, The Coconut Trading Co. has become the premier stop for the perfect gift, with great prices



and convenient nighttime shopping hours. Shipping is available, for larger pieces, offered with a drop ship program at a nominal fee.

The Coconut Trading Co., located in the Marriott Ocean Club lobby. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sundays until 7 p.m. The Coconut Trading

Company, located at the Village on Palm Beach. Open daily from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. Email: orders@salamanderholdings.com



Pastechi House, an Aruba-born brand, now also in Curacao



ORANJESTAD – The Pastechi House, a main street icon since it opened in December 2005, has branched out this year to the Island of Curacao, with the opening of a beautiful outlet on Columbusstraat, in Punda Willemstad, at the heart of the historic district. Owner Justo Lopez, a local entrepreneur likes to share his fondest childhood memories at the time when pastechis were home-made, rolled out in every kitchen as an afternoon snack, nicely finished with elegant fork

markings and lovingly fried for the kids to enjoy. Lopez reports he wanted to bring that genuine Aruban tradition into the 21st century, making it less time-consuming and more widely available. Which lead him to open the Pastechi House factory. It was a long process to determine the best type of flour to use and the style of dough consistency in order to meet island-wide approval. From thickness of crust to degree of crispiness, Lopez tested it all in small groups

and developed the master recipe, with a taste of yesteryears.

Classic pastechi, he explains, are never too sweet, never too oily, they're lightly browned and very flavorful without overpowering the taste-buds of snackers of all ages.

Naturally, he could not order equipment out of a catalogue. He had to design it, modifying Canadian machinery and creating customized molds.

In his immaculately clean, state of the art factory in Eagle, pastechis are made from especially imported Italian flour. A crew of eight bakers prepares up to 5,000 pastries each day, which are immediately packed and instantly deep frozen, ready to be shipped to their next destination. The factory also makes croquets and empanadas, and is efficiently overseen by Justy Lopez, Justo's lovely daughter.

Most of Aruba's hotels serve Pastechi House junior and full size crescent pastries, with 12 different fillings from the classic Cheese and Ham, to chicken, Certified Angus beef and chop soy. During Christmas, the factory ships out pastechi with ayaka fillings, and in Curacao as a special order, the new Renaissance Resort buys them filled just like Indian samosa, for a novel, fusion effect. Ask for them by name: Spicy oriental pastechi.

In Aruba, the main street Pastechi House is a cute outlet. It also serves soft drinks, smoothies and ice



cream. In Curacao the outlet also offers internet café services, and the nicest bathrooms in Punda -- accessories courtesy of Banjolux Aruba.

The Aruba main street branch Lopez explains, was a pilot project. With Curacao now under his belt, Lopez is thinking about invading Holland.

Aruba's humble pastechi will travel he predicts, it is an established, well-liked brand which will hopefully take over the world, one store at the time.

While protecting the integrity

of the basic recipe Pastechi can become many different things, for example, pizza-flavored with real pepperoni filling, Creole, with minced conc filling, or with cod fish filling – a favorite in Curacao, tuna fish fillings are a hit everywhere.

Within the next few weeks, Wendy's, the old fashioned hamburger-serving international chain of fast food restaurants, will be serving pastechi in Aruba. Having inspected the manufacturing process, Wendy's corporate delegates were very pleased with the level of hygiene and the professional degree of excellence observed in the production line and gave the green light to commence selling the pastries here.

Look forward for them at all of Wendy's outlets on the island, in the fall.

Pictured here, Justy receives best pastechi in Aruba award from Island Temptations magazine, the outlet in Curacao, and the Pastechi House factory. □



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Chris Brown apologizes for Rihanna beating

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY,
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES – Chris Brown on Monday publicly apologized for the beating of Rihanna, saying in a two-minute video that he's still seeking help and wants to live his life as a role model.

Brown released the video on his Web site apologizing to fans and saying he is sad and ashamed of his conduct. He also tells viewers that he has repeatedly apologized to Rihanna. Brown was arrested Feb. 8, hours after he fought with his then-girlfriend in a rented sports car after a pre-Grammy party. According to a police affidavit, Brown tried to push the 21-year-old Barbados-born singer from the car and repeatedly hit her and choked her.

He left the scene and later turned himself in to authorities during the Grammy Awards, where he and Rihanna were slated to perform. He was later charged with assault likely to cause great bodily harm and making criminal threats. He pleaded guilty to the felony assault charge last month and faces sentencing Aug. 5.

He is slated to serve five years of probation and perform six months of community labor. On the video, Brown calls the beating "the incident." He vows to conduct interviews and answer some questions about the beating, but

said he wanted to speak directly to fans first. "I felt it was time you that heard directly from me that I am sorry," he says on the video. He calls his conduct "inexcusable" and says his mother — who has attended some of his court hearings — has taught him better. He mentions that he witnessed domestic violence growing up.

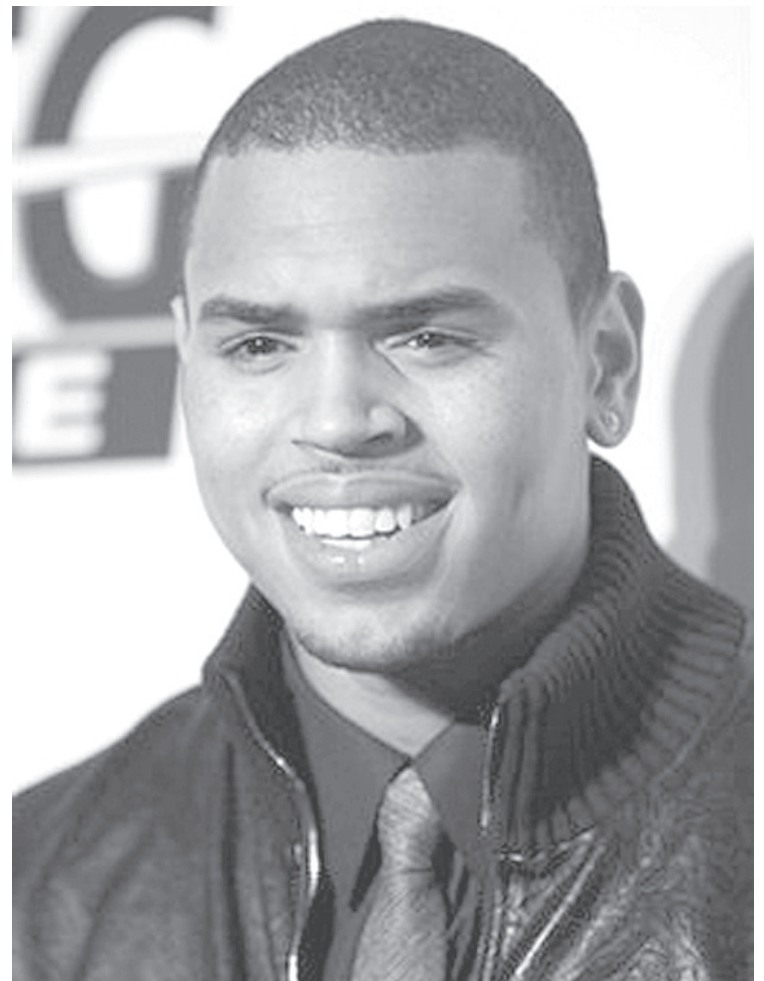
"I saw firsthand what uncontrolled rage can do," he tells viewers. "I have sought and am continuing to seek help to ensure that what occurred in February can never happen again."

Brown says on the video he wanted to speak out earlier, but was advised not to by his lawyer.

He acknowledges that the beating has hurt his reputation. Although he doesn't mention it, Brown lost sponsorship deals, radio stations stopped playing his music and other artists condemned him after the attack.

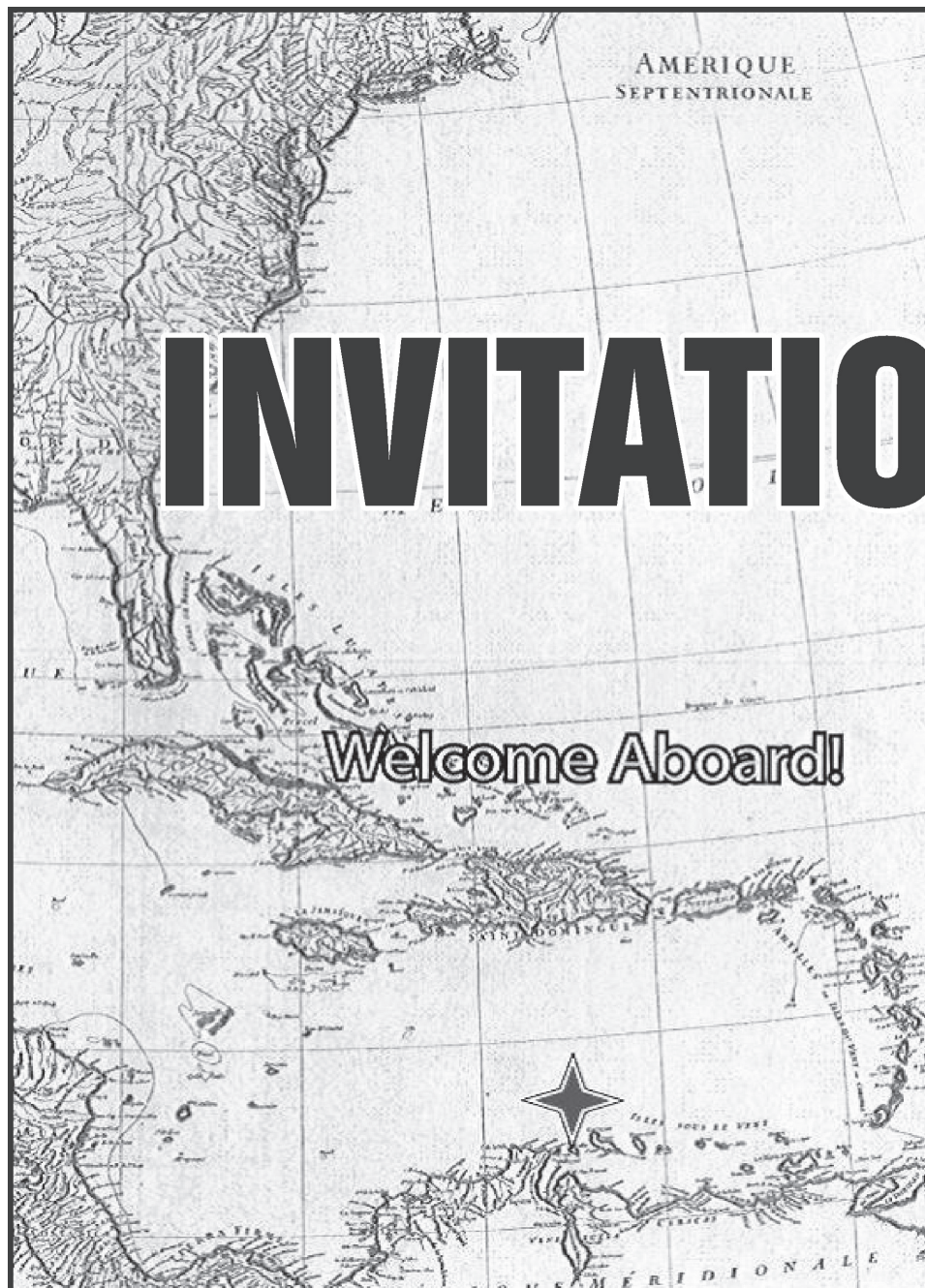
Before the beating, Brown was considered a squeaky-clean R&B up-and-comer. He rose to prominence after the 2005 hit "Run It!" He was nominated for a Grammy for "No Air" with Jordin Sparks and named Billboard's top artist in 2008.

"I intend to live my life so that I am truly worth of the term 'role model,'" Brown says at the video's conclusion. □



FILE - In this Feb. 7, 2009 file photo, Chris Brown arrives at the Clive Davis pre-Grammy party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles, file)



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Swine flu threatens British economy: study

LONDON (AFP)—The British economy could contract as much as 7.5 percent this year if the swine flu pandemic continues to escalate, a report published Monday.

Recovery from the global economic downturn could be delayed as a result of the virus in Britain, the country worst hit by swine flu in Europe, according to the Ernst and Young ITEM Club group of economists.

ITEM said the economy would contract 4.5 percent this year, but if the A(H1N1) virus hit 50 percent of the population and 0.4 percent of those affected died, it could shrink three percentage points more.

The economy could also fall a further 1.2 percent in 2010, the report said.

England's chief medical officer Liam Donaldson said last week that in a worst case scenario, around a third of the country's population could be infected and 65,000 killed.

ITEM said production would be hit as an increasing number of employees take time off either to care for infected loved ones or because they themselves had contracted the virus.

"The main effect of such an epidemic on the supply side would be from employees staying off work because they or their dependents were ill," the report said.

"On the demand side, spending on discretionary goods and services such as restaurants, travel and tourism would be likely to fall as people stayed away from public places."

The warning comes after Britain's health minister said Monday the country will get its first batch of vaccines in August, with enough to vaccinate half the population

by 2010.

Health Secretary Andy Burnham also said that as of Thursday last week, there were 652 people in hospital suffering from swine flu, 53 of them in critical care.

Twenty-nine people with the virus have died in Britain with

estimates last week of 55,000 new cases of swine flu.

A study last week by Oxford Economics in Britain said the global swine flu pandemic could tip the world into deflation, stalling economies just as they struggle to recover from the financial crisis. □



A person enters a new clinic in East London. The British economy could contract as much as 7.5 percent this year if the swine flu pandemic continues to escalate, a report published Monday.

(AFP/Max Nash)



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Stocks rally anew on more signs of economic health



Pedestrians walk by the Citigroup building in New York. A suddenly resurgent Wall Street, riding a wave of economic optimism, faces challenges in the coming week with a slew of earnings reports and a detailed Federal Reserve outlook.

(AFP/Getty Images/Spencer Platt)

By SARA LEPRO and TIM PARADIS,

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Investors are taking the numbers and running with them.

Stocks jumped again Monday, giving the Dow Jones industrials their sixth straight advance, as investors got more robust earnings news from big companies and data that suggest the economy is closer to a recovery. News that CIT had struck a financing deal that will keep the troubled commercial lender out of bankruptcy also drove the market higher.

A 100-point gain pushed the Dow back into the black for the year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 climbed to its highest finish since November.

CIT Group Inc.'s deal with bondholders stoked the

market's growing sense of optimism, which got a big boost last week from a string of good earnings news. The company's future was cast in doubt after negotiations with federal regulators for bailout funds fell through. Its failure would have been a blow to investor confidence and would have hurt industries like retailing, which has suppliers who rely on CIT for financing.

The market also got a stream of news that bolstered the argument that the economy is heading for a recovery.

The Conference Board's index of leading economic indicators rose 0.7 percent in June, more than the 0.4 percent forecast. It was the third straight month of gains in the predictor of future economic activity.

Market indicators jumped about 7 percent last week

following a monthlong slide driven by discouraging reports on the economy. Solid earnings and outlooks from leading companies including Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Intel Corp. and International Business Machines Corp. gave investors hope that the worst of the recession could be past.

An even busier week of earnings reports will further shape investors' view of the economy. Reports are due Tuesday from industrial equipment maker Caterpillar Inc. and drug maker Merck & Co.

Among the companies reporting Monday was toy maker Hasbro Inc., which beat the market's expectations and helped reassure investors somewhat about consumers' willingness to spend.

George F. Shipp, chief investment officer at Scott & Stringfellow in Virginia Beach, Va., said word that CIT might be able to sidestep bankruptcy gave investors another sign that the economy and the markets are healing because the government wasn't forced to intervene.

"The private sector is stepping in where the taxpayer didn't have to this particular time. That's the way it's supposed to work," he said.

The Dow rose 104.21, or 1.2 percent, to 8,848.15. The six-day gain is the longest increase since a seven-day rise in April 2007.

Wall Street's best-known index ended at its highest level since Jan. 6. The last time the Dow was this high stocks were just about to endure a steep drop that left the blue chips at a 12-year low on March 9.

The Dow is up 35 percent from its March low but still down 37.5 percent from its record of 14,164.53 in October 2007.

The S&P 500 index rose 10.75, or 1.1 percent, to 951.13, its best finish since Nov. 5. November's lows last year came after months of brutal selling as the financial crisis intensified in the fall with the collapse of Lehman Brothers. Investors had hoped the November lows would be the bottom of the market's retreat but stocks slid further by March.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 22.68, or 1.2 percent, to 1,909.29, its ninth straight advance. The index is at its highest mark since Oct. 3, during the most furious selling of the credit crisis.

Among the earnings news, Hasbro's profit rose 5 percent, beating expectations, as strong U.S. revenue offset international sales hurt by the stronger dollar. The stock gained 4.2 percent, rising \$1.07 to \$26.45.

Oilfield services company Halliburton Co. said its profit tumbled 48 percent amid sluggish exploration and production activity, but the results were better than analyst forecasts and its shares

rose 95 cents, or 4.4 percent, to \$22.33.

With the bulk of earnings reports still to come, the market has yet to hear from some key industries including retailing. If those results are disappointing, it could force investors to rethink their most recent rally. Several factors are still hanging over the market including record-high unemployment and a damaged housing market.

Some analysts said the market could have a hard time advancing, even with more welcome developments.

"The market itself has hit kind of a top here temporarily. People are already getting used to the earnings," said Matt Lloyd, chief investment strategist at Advisors Asset Management.

On Monday, though, the CIT news and optimism over better earnings reports stoked investors' appetite for risk. CIT jumped 55 cents, or 79 percent, to \$1.25.

Commodity prices advanced and the dollar was mixed. Oil prices rose 42 cents to settle at \$63.98 a barrel. Gold rose.

Bond prices rose, pushing yields lower. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell to 3.60 percent from 3.66 percent late Friday.

Advancing stocks outnumbered those that fell by more than 3-to-1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 4.9 billion shares compared with 5 billion traded Friday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 7.74, or 1.5 percent, to 526.96.

Overseas, Britain's FTSE 100 rose 1.3 percent, Germany's DAX index rose 1 percent, and France's CAC-40 gained 1.6 percent. Japanese financial markets were closed for a holiday. □

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Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse offering Spa Cuisine



Palm Beach – The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status – a rare feat for steakhouses. Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections. The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing

flavors with citrus, spice and herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains.

"We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers," he adds, "all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly," he informs.

"The Sunset Grille kitchen," Smeets reveals, "uses no trans fats, and our guests," he banter, "stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine."

Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, "Shaken not Stirred," the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar. The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon



and Scallops served with the popular Soba Noodles. The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and preparing them in accordance with a combination of "tried and true" as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Smeets explains. Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing



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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer. The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

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Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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Driftwood Restaurant

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On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Spacewalk No. 2 unfolds on 40th moon anniversary

MARCIA DUNN,

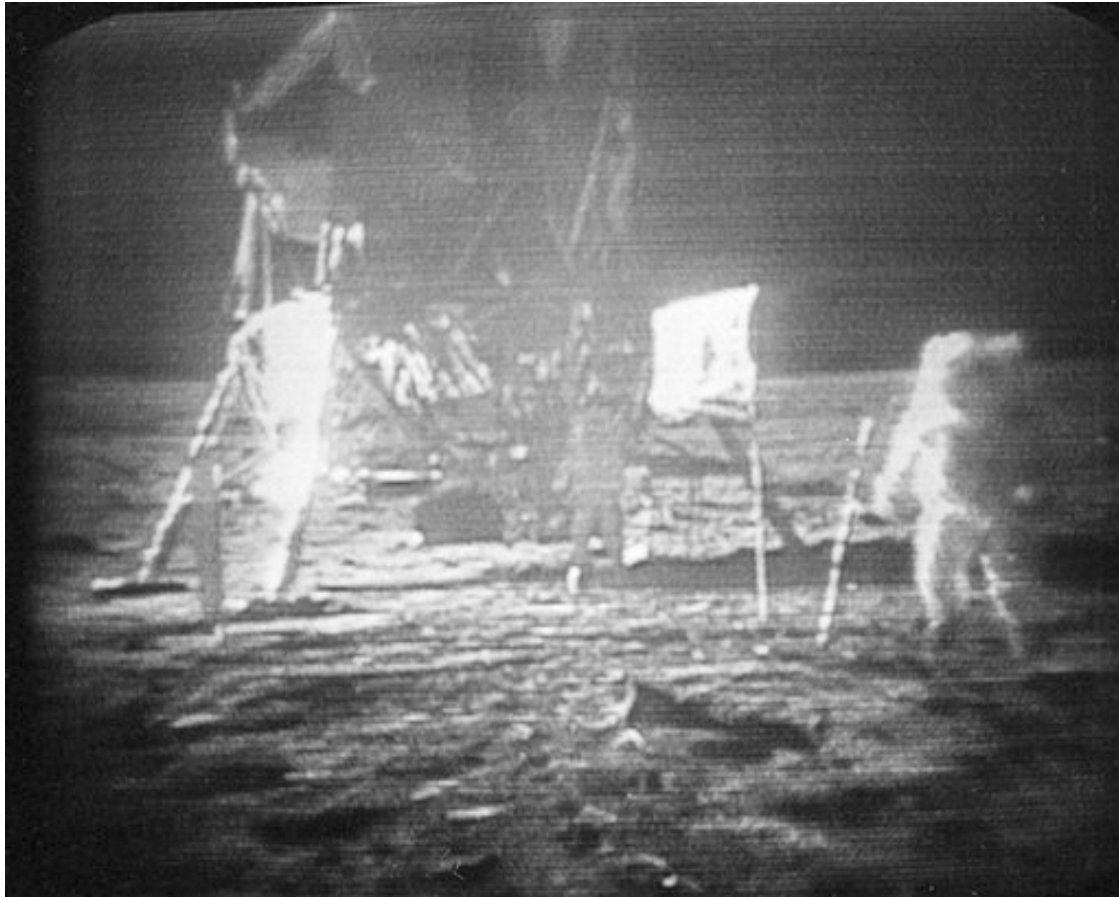
Associated Press Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — The astronauts aboard the shuttle-station complex celebrated the 40th anniversary of man's first moon landing with their own spacewalk Monday, heading outside to stockpile some big spare parts.

In the second outing of their mission, David Wolf and Thomas Marshburn anchored a 6-foot dish antenna on the international space station for future use, then did the same with a hefty pump and an engine for a rail car.

The spacewalk unfolded 40 years to the day that two other astronauts — Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin — strolled the moon's dusty surface. It was the 202nd spacewalk by Americans since the Apollo 11 lunar excursion.

Continued on Next Page



In this July 20, 1969 file photo, Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong, right, trudges across the surface of the moon leaving behind footprints. The U.S. flag, planted on the surface by the astronauts, can be seen between Armstrong and the lunar module. Edwin E. Aldrin is seen closer to the craft. The men reported the surface of the moon was like soft sand and they left footprints several inches deep wherever they walked.

Associated Press

Four U.S. troops die in deadliest month in Afghanistan

ROBERT H. REID

Associated Press Writer

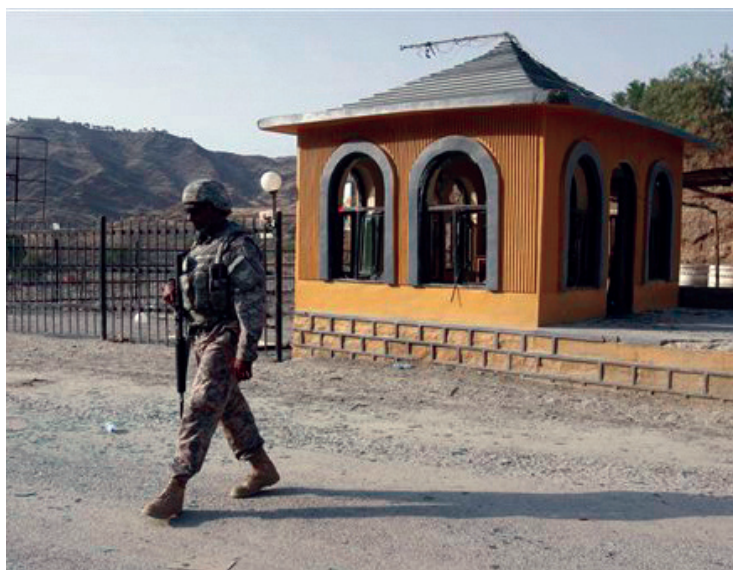
KABUL (AP) — A roadside bomb killed four American troops in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, driving the July death toll for U.S. forces to the highest monthly level of the war.

The latest deaths brought to at least 30 the number of American service members who have died in Afghanistan this month — two more than the figure for all of June 2008, which had been the deadliest month for the U.S. since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion drove the Taliban from power.

July's death toll for the entire U.S.-led coalition, which includes American, British, Canadian and other forces, stands at 55 — well over the previous record of 46 deaths suffered in June and August of 2008.

U.S. commanders had predicted a bloody summer after President Barack Obama ordered 21,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan in a bid to turn the tide against a resurgent Taliban and shift the focus on the global war against Islamic extremism from Iraq.

NATO's outgoing Secretary-General Jaap De Hoop Sheffer said Monday that terrorism would spread through the world if



A U.S. soldier walks near the scene of a suicide attack in Torkham, Nangarhar province east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, July 19, 2009. A suicide bomber attacked the Afghan-Pakistan border crossing at Torkham, killing a border police officer and a civilian, said Gen. Ayub Salangi, the provincial police chief of Nangarhar.

Associated Press

NATO forces fail in Afghanistan.

"Al-Qaida would have a free run again, and their terrorist ambitions are global," he said in a speech at London's Chatham House think tank. "Those who argue otherwise — who say we can defend against terrorism from home — are simply burying their heads in the sand."

Continued on Page B6



President Barack Obama attends a roundtable discussion with health care providers during a visit to Children's National Medical Center in Washington, Monday, July 20, 2009. The teddy bear is the hospital's logo.

Associated Press

Obama challenges critics on health care

DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama pushed back hard against Republican critics of his health care overhaul plan Monday, dismissing the "politics of the moment" marked by Republican comparisons of his efforts to socialism.

Obama has made revamping the country's \$2.4 trillion health care system a top priority of his administration, and his strong words came just hours after opposition Republicans ratcheted up their criticism of the president and congressional Democrats.

Michael Steele, chairman of the Republican Party, likened Obama's plans to socialism — viewed as a derogatory term in many U.S. households — and argued that the president, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and key congressional committee chairmen are part of a "cabal" that wants to implement government-run health care.

Continued on Page B4

SPACEWALK NO.2

Continued from Page B1

Inside Mission Control, a clock counted down to 4:17 p.m. EDT, the moment the Eagle set down on the Sea of Tranquility on July 20, 1969. The control commentator noted the occasion, but the spacewalk carried on without any mention in orbit of Apollo 11.

Earlier in the day at a Washington news conference, some of the Apollo astronauts, including Aldrin, suggested the \$100 billion poured into the space station had not yielded much and that the outpost would be better used as a testbed for human missions to Mars and even asteroids.

"We've spent a lot of money up there for almost nothing," said Apollo 13 commander Jim Lovell. "It's almost a white elephant and until we can really get a return on our investment of that particular project, then it was money wasted."

Meanwhile, the \$15.6 million space station toilet that broke down Sunday was up and running again, after the crew added some new parts.

The commode — one of three on the linked station and shuttle Endeavour — was out of action for about 24 hours.

NASA wanted the station commode working again as soon as possible. With a record number of people on board — 13 — having three working toilets is crucial.

Complicating matters was the fact that Endeavour cannot eject any waste water while it's docked to the space station. The water would spray all over the porch attached two days ago to the Japanese lab, and possibly corrode it. With the toilet fixed, there was no longer any worry about coming close to filling Endeavour's waste water tank.

There were also a few moments of concern midway through the spacewalk, when Marshburn reported that he dropped his 85-foot tether. He remained safely connected to the station 220 miles up with his 55-foot tether, but the antenna work was held up while he went to retrieve his longer cord and snap it back on.

The antenna and other spare parts that were attached to the



President Barack Obama poses with Apollo 11 astronauts, from left, Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and Neil Armstrong, Monday, July 20, 2009, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, on the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing.

Associated Press

space station Monday were hauled up by Endeavour.

NASA wants to have as many extrapieces up there as possible so that when the shuttles stop flying next year, the station will be able to get along without their big deliveries. None of the other spacecraft

that visits the outpost can hold nearly as much cargo as the shuttle.

Monday's spacewalk was much quieter than the one Saturday. Loud static filled the airwaves throughout the earlier excursion, the result of improperly positioned

microphones in an astronaut's helmet. The cap with those microphones will not be used again.

Three more spacewalks are planned during Endeavour's station visit, which ends July 28. □



Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates addresses over 200 soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division during a town hall meeting at Fort Drum, N.Y., Thursday, July 16, 2009. Gates said he could send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan than initially expected and is considering increasing the number of soldiers in the Army.

Associated Press

PAULINE JELINEK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —
Defense Secretary Robert

Gates announces U.S. Army being increased by 22,000

Gates announced Monday that the size of the Army is being increased temporarily by 22,000 soldiers to help meet the needs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and other missions around the world.

This is the second time since 2007 that the military has determined it does not have a large enough force. Gates had already increased the size of the Army and Marine Corps shortly after taking the Pentagon job.

Gates noted that while progress in Iraq will lead to a reduction in the number of troops there, more troops are needed in Afghanistan because of the worsening violence in that conflict.

He said the persistent pace of operations in the two wars over several years has meant a steady increase in the number of troops who are wounded, stressed or otherwise unable to deploy with their units.

Also causing a shortage is the decision earlier this year to stop the unpopular practice of keeping troops beyond their enlistment dates, a practice known as "stop-loss."

"The cumulative effect of these factors is that the army faces a period where its ability to continue to deploy combat units (with enough troops) is at risk," Gates said.

"This is a temporary challenge that will peak in the coming year and abate over the course of the next three years," Gates told a Pentagon news conference.

The Army currently has a total troop strength of 547,000.

Gates said he would not seek additional money for the extra troops in the 2009 and 2010 fiscal year budgets.

"This decision will result in additional tough choices for the department," he said. "However, I'm convinced that this is an important and

necessary step to ensure that we continue to properly support the needs of our commanders in the field while providing relief for our current force and their families."

Gates also said it was "not inevitable" that more U.S. troops would be needed in Afghanistan beyond the 68,000 American force expected to be there by the end of the year.

He had said Thursday that there "may be some increase, but not a lot."

Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who took over as commander for all U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan last month, is nearing the end of a 60-day review of what is needed there. The former U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. David McKiernan, had said he needed an additional 10,000 troops, beyond the 68,000. The White House put off that decision until the end of this year. □

Don't drink & DRIVE

State shows Katrina recovery at governors convention

EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS
Associated Press Writer

BILOXI, Mississippi (AP) — Governors attending their national convention on Mississippi's Gulf Coast have seen signs of Hurricane Katrina recovery — glitzy casinos packed with tourists, new condominium towers rising along the beach, the major expansion of a bustling state port.

However, unless the governors skip the receptions with cocktails and jumbo shrimp, they probably won't see the neighborhoods reduced to vacant lots and detached concrete steps to front porches that no longer exist four years after the monster storm. They won't see the roads still torn up in the tiny town of Waveland or learn about the lagging city services in Pass Christian, where the tax base has eroded because its beachside Wal-Mart was gutted by Katrina and is still being rebuilt.

"It's changed a lot. Nothing is like it was," lamented Steve Kuljis, a mechanic who has lived most of his 59 years on Biloxi's Point Cadet, a blue-collar neighborhood obliterated by Katrina's winds and storm surge.

Point Cadet sits on a mile-wide peninsula between the Gulf of Mexico and the Back Bay of Biloxi. On Aug. 29, 2005, Katrina flooded the low-lying area and turned the modest wooden-framed bungalows into toothpicks. It heaved boats on shore and sucked entire households full of belongings out to sea — furniture, appliances, family photos.

It was a neighborhood of fishermen and shipyard workers, of families whose last names were French, Slavic and Vietnamese. Many of the homes had been passed from generation to generation, and many were uninsured or underinsured.

Few people could afford to rebuild, and "for sale" signs now dot dozens of grassy vacant lots. A few homes have been rebuilt to meet new flood elevation requirements,

though most former Point Cadet residents have moved farther inland.

Locals still talk about Katrina with a mixture of awe, anger and sadness. They're grateful to the volunteers who cleaned debris and fed the hungry. But a bitterness creeps into people's voices as they talk about New Orleans getting most of the media attention after Katrina, when the levees burst and the city flooded.

"New Orleans was not on the bad side of the storm. It's the coast itself that was so tore up," said 62-year-old Leon Balius, a retired shipyard worker who lives in Biloxi.

Katrina scraped across southern Louisiana before making its final landfall near Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of New Orleans and 40 miles (64 kilometers) west of Biloxi.

Mississippi's Republican governor, Haley Barbour, had been in office just more than a year and half when Katrina hit. With the help of Sen. Thad Cochran, who chaired the Appropriations Committee when Republicans were still in the majority, Barbour used his connections to help his state get \$5.4 billion in federal recovery aid.

And those connections remain deep: Barbour served as Republican National Committee chairman

from 1993-97, helping the Republicans take over majorities in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate in 1994. He's now chairman of the Republican Governors Association.

Most of Mississippi's federal Katrina money has been used to restore housing. Advocates for the poor have criticized Barbour for diverting some of the money into expanding the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport — a project Barbour defends as economically necessary.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development said 52,512 houses or apartments in Mississippi suffered severe or major damage in Katrina.

Mississippi Housing Recovery Data Project said the housing stock in Mississippi's three coastal counties in mid-2008 was at 92 percent of its pre-Katrina level. The project estimates that by mid-2011, the area's housing stock will be at 104 percent of its pre-Katrina level. Most of the 43,000 trailers and mobile homes provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency after the storm are no longer occupied.

This weekend marked the first time since 1935 Mississippi hosted the National Governors Association convention. Barbour, who's often knocked Barack Obama's spending



Gov. Haley Barbour, R-Miss., left, West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin and Jim Douglas, R-Vt., right, speak Monday, July 20, 2009 during the National Governors Association annual conference at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi, Miss.

plan, has toned down the partisan remarks and taken the opportunity to show off his state's progress.

"All of this area was devastated, but as you can see a tremendous comeback has been made," Barbour said during the convention's opening news conference, with the state port as the backdrop. Republican Gov. Jim Douglas of Vermont said Barbour — who has not ruled out running for president in 2012 when his second and final term ends — showed "tremendous leadership" after Katrina.

"The eyes of the world literally were on the Gulf Coast, looking not only at the devastation but the response led by Gov. Barbour to make sure Mississippians came through a very difficult, challenging time," Douglas said.

As about half the nation's governors socialized over Gulf Coast seafood and Delta blues, though, a couple dozen locals gathered Friday a couple miles (kilometers) away for karaoke, catfish and cold beer at the Fleur De Lis Society lodge on Point Cadet. The social club for people of French ancestry opened in 1934, and its steel-frame building was gutted by Katrina. The new building has been open for about a year, on the same site.

Kuljis has rebuilt his one-story home on Point Cadet, with the help of a federal grant. He credits Barbour with securing that money — and he said he never considered abandoning his home.

"You're either going to roll over and give up," Kuljis said, "or get up and keep going." □

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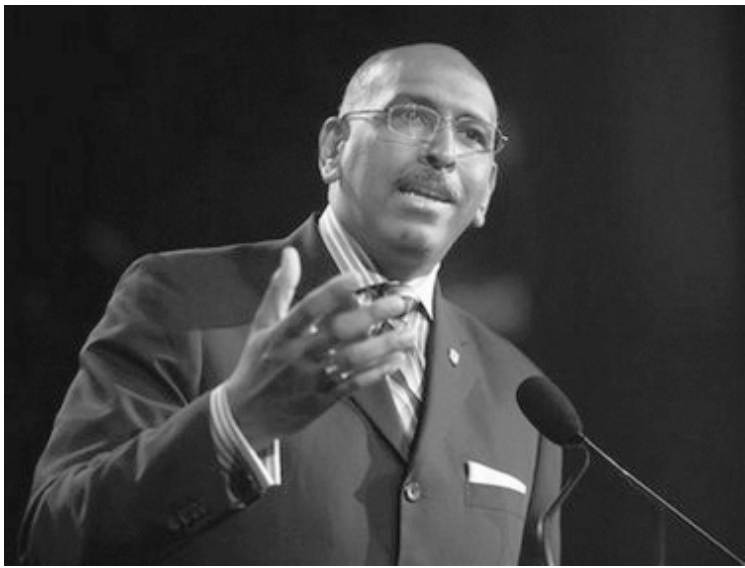
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Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele speaks at the 100th annual NAACP Convention in New York, Tuesday, July 14, 2009.

HEALTHCARE

Continued from Page B1

The United States is the only developed nation that does not have a comprehensive national health care plan for

Associated Press

all its citizens, leaving about 50 million of America's 300 million people without health insurance.

Obama campaigned on a promise to offer affordable health care to all Americans, but the recession and a deepening budget deficit have made it difficult to win support for costly new programs.

The White House also faced troubling news in the latest polling, with approval of Obama's handling of health care slipping.

"We can't afford the politics of delay and defeat when it comes to health care," Obama said after meeting with doctors, nurses and other health care workers at Children's National Medical

Center. "Not this time. Not now. There are too many lives and livelihoods at stake."

Without mentioning his critic by name, the president recounted South Carolina Republican Sen. Jim DeMint's comment that stopping Obama's bid for health care overhaul could be the president's "Waterloo," a reference to the site of Napoleon's bitter defeat in 1815.

"This isn't about me," Obama responded. "This isn't about politics. This is about a health care system that is breaking America's families, breaking America's businesses and breaking America's economy."

Striking a more populist tone than in past remarks, the president complained that "health insurance companies and their executives have reaped windfall profits from a broken system."

"Let's fight our way through the politics of the moment," Obama said. "Let's pass reform by the end of this year."

That reflects a shift in a timetable he has stressed repeatedly. Obama had said previously that he wanted the House and Senate to vote on legislation before lawmakers leave town for their August recess, with a comprehensive bill for him to sign in October.

"I want this done now. Now, if there are no deadlines, nothing gets done in this town," Obama told PBS's "The NewsHour." "If somebody comes to me and says 'It's basically done, it's going to spill over by a few days or a week,' you know, that's different."

Steele accused Obama of conducting a risky experiment that will hurt the economy and force millions to drop their current coverage.

"Obama-Pelosi want to start building a colossal, closed health care system where Washington decides. Republicans want and support an open health care system where patients and doctors make the decisions," Steele said in a speech at the National Press Club.

Asked whether Obama's health care plan represented socialism, Steele responded: "Yes. Next question."

Obama has said he does not favor a government-run health care system. Legislation

taking shape in the House envisions private insurance companies selling coverage in competition with the government.

The president is struggling to advance his trademark health care proposal after a period of evident progress. Two of three House committees have approved their portions of the bill, while one of two Senate panels have acted. A Washington Post-ABC News survey released Monday shows approval of Obama's handling of health care overhaul slipping below 50 percent for the first time.

The president, who spent most of last week making his plea for health care overhaul, was pressing his case hard again this week, first at the children's hospital, and later this week in a prime-time news conference Wednesday and a town hall in Ohio on Thursday.

Obama and Democratic leaders face a new batch of ads.

Republican officials said they were supplementing Steele's speech with a round of television advertising designed to oppose government-run health care. The 30-second commercial, titled "Grand Experiment," criticizes recent government aid to the auto industry and banks as "the biggest spending spree in our history" and warns similarly of "a risky experiment with our health care."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the nation's largest business group, planned to announce ads of its own Tuesday criticizing the government-run insurance proposal, saying it would threaten employer-provided coverage.

Separately, the insurance industry, which challenged then-President Bill Clinton's health care effort in the early 1990s, launched a \$1.4 million ad campaign, its first TV ads of this year's health care fight. The multimillion-dollar campaign, being aired nationally on cable stations, restates the industry's support for an overhaul that provides universal coverage and its offer to cover people who are already sick. The ad campaign does not mention the insurers' strong opposition to creating a government-run insurance option. □

The grace of Little Grace



Pa: Roland W. Peterson

Little Grace had a
problem with her name
She wanted to know when it was Grace
and when it was grace

So one day she went
to her grandmother
on the farm
where the cattle was grazing

Walk along my Little Grace (charm)
Look at the black swan
gracefully swimming by
Its movements and expressions
are graceful

You were born just after supper
Your Dad and Mom
had just said grace (thanks for their meal)

When I looked at your face
it was just plain grace (beautiful and pleasing)
So we called you Grace

That evening his grace the
Archbishop held service
in our church
Your father went to church
to sing amazing grace
to dignify gracing in the good

The following day your father
got grace for payment of an obligation

You see that choler across the pond
He is graceless (lacking any sense of what is proper)

Little Grace who is always
gracious (polite) said:
I got it Granny, I got it Granny
As she ran across the meadow
just grazing (scraped lightly in passing) the barn.



Black scholar's arrest raises racism questions

MELISSA TRUJILLO

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Police responding to a call about “two black males” breaking into a home near Harvard University ended up arresting the man who lives there — Henry Louis Gates Jr., the pre-eminent African-American studies scholar. Gates had forced his way through the front door because it was jammed, his lawyer said. Colleagues call the arrest last Thursday afternoon a clear case of racial profiling.

Cambridge police say they responded to the well-maintained two-story home after a woman reported seeing “two black males with backpacks on the porch,” with one “wedging his shoulder into the door as if he was trying to force entry.”

By the time police arrived, Gates was already inside. Police say he refused to come outside to speak with an officer, who told him he was investigating a report of a break-in.

“Why, because I’m a black man in America?” Gates said, according to a police report.

Gates — the director of Harvard’s W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research — initially refused to show the officer his identification, but then gave him a Harvard University ID card, according to police.

“Gates continued to yell at me, accusing me of racial bias and continued to tell me that I had not heard the last of him,” the officer wrote.

Gates joined the Harvard faculty in 1991 and holds one of 20 prestigious “university professors” positions at the school. He also was host of “African American Lives,” a Public Broadcasting Service TV show about the family histories of prominent U.S. blacks, and was named by Time magazine as one of the 25 most influential Americans in 1997.

He was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge after police said he “exhibited loud and tumultuous behavior.” He

was released later that day on his own recognizance. An arraignment was scheduled for Aug. 26. Police refused to comment on the arrest Monday.

Gates, 58, also refused to speak publicly Monday, referring calls to his attorney, fellow Harvard scholar Charles Ogletree.

Ogletree said Gates gave the officer his driver’s license and Harvard identification, but became upset when the officer continued to question him.

“He was shocked to find himself being questioned and shocked that the conversation continued after he showed his identification,” Ogletree said.

Ogletree declined to say whether he believed the incident was racially motivated, saying “I think the incident speaks for itself.”

Some of Gates’ African-American colleagues say the arrest is part of a pattern of racial profiling in Cambridge.

Allen Counter, who has taught neuroscience at Harvard for 25 years, said he was stopped on campus by two Harvard police officers in 2004 after being mistaken for a robbery suspect. They threatened to arrest him when he could not produce identification.

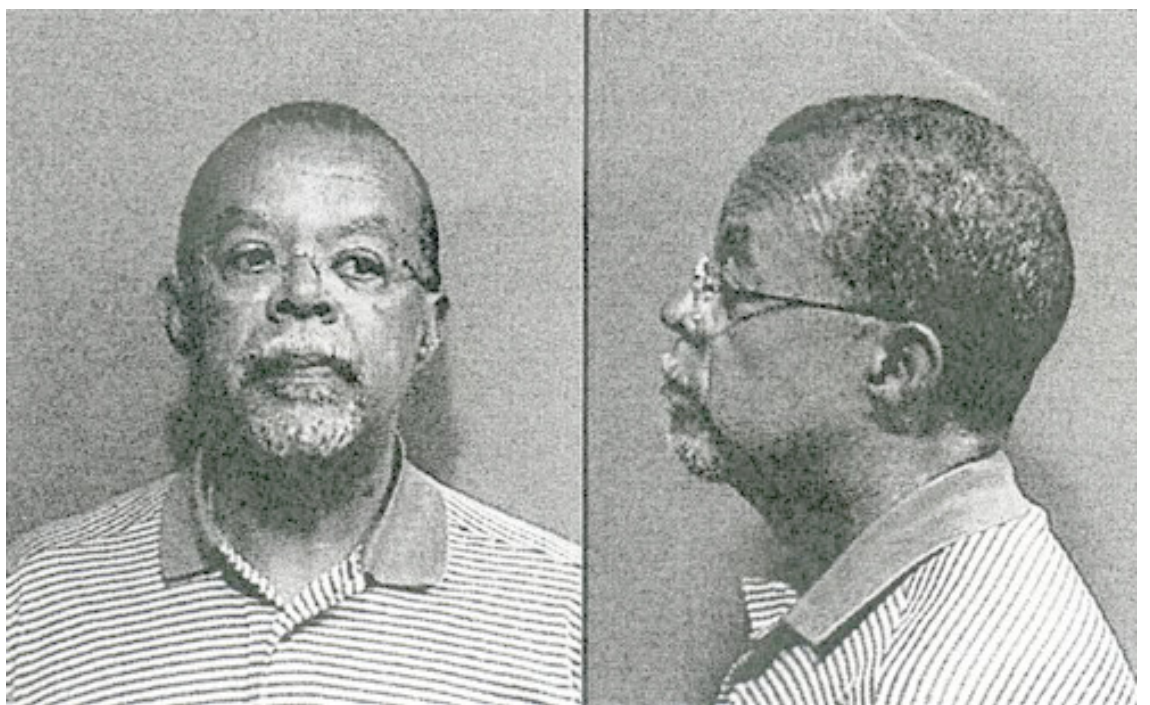
“We do not believe that this arrest would have happened if professor Gates was white,” Counter said. “It really has been very unsettling for African-Americans throughout Harvard and throughout Cambridge that this happened.”

Harvard president Drew Gilpin Faust said he had spoken with Gates about the incident.

“I was obviously very concerned when I learned on Thursday about the incident,” Faust said in a statement. “He and I spoke directly and I have asked him to keep me apprised.”

The Rev. Al Sharpton, a prominent civil rights activist, is vowing to attend Gates’ arraignment.

“This arrest is indicative of at best police abuse of power or at worst the highest example



This booking photo released by the Cambridge, Mass., Police Dept., shows Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., who was arrested while trying to force open the locked front door of his home near Harvard University Thursday, July 16, 2009. Gates, a pre-eminent African-American scholar, is accusing Cambridge police of racism after he was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge after police said he “exhibited loud and tumultuous behavior.” He was released later that day on his own recognizance and arraignment was scheduled for Aug. 26.

Associated Press

of racial profiling I have seen,” Sharpton said. “I have heard of driving while black and even shopping while black but now even going to your own home while black is a new low in police community affairs.”

Ogletree said Gates had returned from a trip to China on Thursday with a driver, when he found his front door jammed.

He went through the back door into the home — which he leases from Harvard — shut off an alarm and worked with the driver to get the door open. The driver left, and Gates was on the phone with the property’s management company when police first arrived.

Ogletree also disputed the claim that Gates, who was wearing slacks and a polo shirt and carrying a cane, was yelling at the officer.

“He has an infection that has impacted his breathing since he came back from China, so he’s been in a very delicate physical state,” Ogletree said.

Lawrence D. Bobo, the W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard, said he met with Gates at the police station and described his colleague as feeling humiliated and “emotionally devastated.”

“It’s just deeply disappointing

but also a pointed reminder that there are serious problems that we have to wrestle with,” he said.

Bobo said he hoped Cambridge police would drop the charges and called on the department to use the incident to review training

and screening procedures it has in place.

The Middlesex district attorney’s office said it could not do so until after Gates’ arraignment. The woman who reported the apparent break-in did not return a message Monday. □



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AFGHANISTAN

Continued from Page B1

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has warned that U.S.-led forces must demonstrate progress in Afghanistan by next summer or face a public perception that the conflict cannot be won. Heavy losses this month have already triggered a public debate in Britain that the war in

A U.S. soldier is seen through a window at the scene of a suicide attack in Torkham, Nangarhar province east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, July 19, 2009. A suicide bomber attacked the Afghan-Pakistan border crossing at Torkham, killing a border police officer and a civilian, said Gen. Ayub Salangi, the provincial police chief of Nangarhar.

Associated Press

Afghanistan may not be worth the price.

With more troops in the country, American and British forces have been striking deeper into Taliban strongholds in the south, hoping to establish enough security for Afghans to choose a president next month and cut insurgent supply lines into Pakistan.

British military authorities said Monday that bombing attacks in southern Afghanistan soared nearly 43 percent for the first five months of this year over the same period last year.

U.S. troops have also stepped up efforts in eastern Afghanistan to curb the movement of militants to and from safe havens in Pakistan's lawless tribal region.

A NATO statement said the four soldiers were killed by an improvised explosive device in the east of the country but gave no further details. A U.S. spokesman, Lt. Robert Carr, confirmed all four were Americans.

It was unclear whether the blast occurred near the area

of eastern Afghanistan where Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl, 23, was taken captive June 30. Bergdahl appeared on a Taliban video posted on the Internet over the weekend — a move denounced by the U.S. command as a violation of international law.

Also Monday, the British Ministry of Defense announced that a British soldier was killed the day before by a roadside bomb during a foot patrol in Helmand province.

Roadside bombs now account for more than two-thirds of all casualties among the international force as the Taliban demonstrate greater skill in manufacturing and planting the explosives. Bombings rose by 25 percent in the first four months of 2009 over the same period last year, and the U.S. command expects them to increase 50 percent this year to 5,700 — up from 3,800 last year.

The increased threat from roadside bombs and Afghanistan's formidable terrain of high mountains and deserts have forced the international military force to rely heavily on aircraft to transport personnel and supplies around the country. The increased tempo of the conflict has strained air assets and may have been behind a series of aircraft accidents in recent weeks.

In the latest mishap, a British Tornado GR4 fighter jet crashed Monday on takeoff inside the Kandahar Airfield, but the two crewmen managed to eject safely, according to a NATO spokesman Capt. Ruben Hoornveld. British officials said the crash was not a result of hostile fire but the cause was still under investigation.

The crash occurred one day after a Russian-owned civilian Mi-8 helicopter slammed into the tarmac at the same base shortly after takeoff, killing 16 people on board. Two

Americans died Saturday when their U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle fighter jet crashed in central Afghanistan.

A U.S. helicopter made a "hard landing" the same day, injuring several soldiers. U.S. officials said neither incident was due to hostile fire.

Taliban militants shot down a Moldovan-owned Mi-6 transport helicopter last week in southern Afghanistan, killing six Ukrainian civilians on board and an Afghan child on the ground.

Earlier in July, two Canadian soldiers and one British trooper were killed in a helicopter crash in Zabul province. Officials said the crash did not appear to be caused by Taliban fire.

Also Monday, officials reported that at least a dozen Afghan civilians had been killed in violent incidents.

In the northern province of Kunduz on Sunday, German soldiers fired on a pickup truck approaching at high speed and suspected of carrying Taliban fighters. Provincial Gov. Mohammad Omar said three civilians were killed, but German authorities said one died.

Defense Ministry spokesman Christian Dienst said in Berlin that the driver ignored warning shots before troops fired at the vehicle's engine to disable it. Three Afghans were injured and a fourth fled, Dienst said. Prosecutors in Potsdam, where the German military's mission command center is headquartered, said they were examining evidence to determine whether to open a criminal investigation.

In the western province of Farah, a van full of civilians struck a roadside bomb Sunday, killing 11 people on board, including a child and his mother, said Mohammad Younis Rasouli, the deputy governor. The bomb was probably intended for Afghan or international troops. □



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PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2	daily: 6:00 matinee: 12:00	9:00 2:55	11:50
R	THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123	daily: 7:10 matinee:	9:30 11:45	
PG-13	YEAR ONE	daily: 5:00 matinee: 12:40	7:10 2:45	9:15 11:20
PG-13	TERMINATOR SALVATION	daily: 8:15 matinee:	11:00	
PG	ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:20	6:15 2:20	
PG	IMAGINE THAT	daily: 4:55 matinee: 12:10	2:30	late show:

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PG-13	PUBLIC ENEMIES	daily: 5:45 matinee: 12:05	8:45 2:55	11:35
PG-13	THE PROPOSAL	daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:25	7:00 2:35	9:15 11:30
PG	LAND OF THE LOST	daily: 10:00 matinee:	12:05	
R	THE HANGOVER	daily: 5:35 matinee: 1:15	7:45 3:25	9:50 12:00
PG	ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS	daily: 4:00 matinee: 12:00	6:00 2:00	8:00
PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2	daily: 5:40 matinee: 12:05	8:30 2:50	11:25

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"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

Surprise confession by surviving Mumbai gunman

ERIKA KINETZ

Associated Press Writer

MUMBAI, India (AP)—The lone surviving gunman in the Mumbai attacks delivered a surprise confession at his trial, saying he was recruited by a Pakistani militant group while he was looking for training to become a professional robber.

Ajmal Kasab's confession Monday bolstered India's charges that terrorist groups in neighboring Pakistan were behind the well-planned attack, and that it is not doing enough to clamp down on them. The attack in which 166 people died severely strained relations and put the brakes on a peace process between the nuclear-armed enemies.

During his confession, Kasab described how he sprayed automatic gunfire at commuters while a comrade hurled grenades inside a railway station during one of India's worst terrorist acts. "I was in front of Abu Ismail who had taken such a position that no one could see him," Kasab told the court. "We both fired, Abu Ismail and I. We fired on the public," he said.

Kasab, a Pakistani who had consistently denied a role in the November rampage, reversed his plea without warning, shocking even his lawyer.

Kasab calmly described how four men — some of them known leaders of the Pakistan-based Islamic extremist group Lashkar-e-Taiba — sent him and his fellow attackers to Mumbai from Karachi, Pakistan.

They traveled by boat arriving Nov. 26 in Mumbai, where they unleashed three days of mayhem. The 10 gunmen, armed with automatic rifles and grenades, split into pairs and killed people at a railway station, a Jewish center, a hospital and two five-star hotels, including the Taj Mahal.

Seema Desai, an analyst at the Eurasia Group in London,

said Kasab's assertions could "increase tensions between India and Pakistan."

"Most likely Pakistan will not give his statements much credence and will question the circumstances under which he changed his story," she said in an e-mail.

Kasab faces the death penalty if convicted on the charges of murder and waging war against India.

As the 66th day of Kasab's trial started Monday morning, he stood up just as a prosecution witness was to take the stand, and addressed the judge.

"Sir, I plead guilty to my crime," the 21-year-old said, triggering a collective gasp in the courtroom.

After a debate on the legality of such a confession, Kasab's statement was recorded, and the judge said he would have Kasab sign each page of the document, which would be reviewed by his lawyer, formally reversing his plea from innocent to guilty.

Kasab said he and Abu Ismail went to the Chatrapati Shivaji railway station in a taxi and left a bomb in the vehicle.

"I went to the restroom and attached a battery to a bomb and put it in a bag. Abu followed me to restroom and I asked him what I should do with the bomb."

"Let's see," Abu told me," he said.

They moved to the railroad station hall, packed with commuters. Abu Ismail put the bag near a pillar and stood close to a wall where they began shooting at people. Soon, policemen joined the fight. The bomb never exploded.

"I was firing and Abu was hurling hand grenades ... I fired at a policeman after which there was no firing from the police side," Kasab said.

From the railway station, where they killed more than 50, the two went to Cama hospital. A few more were killed there. The pair

then went to the Chowpatty beach in a hijacked vehicle where Ismail was killed and Kasab was captured after a shootout with the police.

Kasab was treated for wounds and has since been held in solitary confinement in Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail where the trial is being conducted.

The siege of Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital, ended Nov. 29 with troops storming the Taj Mahal Hotel where the gunmen were holding hostages. All attackers except Kasab were killed.

Kasab said his confession was not coerced. "There is no pressure on me. I am making the statement of my own will," he said.

As part of the confession, he told how he became involved with Lashkar-e-Taiba. He said he had become unhappy with his low wages as a shop assistant in the Pakistani town of Jhelum, and left for Rawalpindi with the intention of becoming a professional robber.

While attending a festival in Rawalpindi, he and a friend decided to seek out the mujahedeen, who they thought could help train them as bandits. They went to a local bazaar and were directed to the local Lashkar office, he said.

Before being sent to India, Kasab said he lived in a house in Pakistan's largest city Karachi for a month-and-a-half with 10 other young men. All of them were transferred to another home and taken to sea where they met four handlers.

One of them was an Indian, who taught the attackers Hindi, he said.

Kasab confessed after his capture, but later withdrew that statement, saying it had been made under duress.

Last week, Pakistan gave a dossier to India providing new evidence of Lashkar-e-Taiba's role in the attack and naming Kasab as a participant.



In this Nov. 26, 2008 file photo, a gunman identified by police as Ajmal Kasab walks through the Chatrapathi Sivaji Terminal railway station in Mumbai, India. Kasab, the lone surviving gunman in the November Mumbai attacks, admitted his role in the shooting Monday, July 20, 2009, in a dramatic confession in an Indian court, reversing months of denials.

Associated Press

Asked by judge M.L. Tahiliyani why he had confessed, Kasab said it was because of the evidence provided by the Pakistani government.

"If Pakistan has accepted me as its citizen, then end this case and punish me for my crime," he said. "My request

is that we end the trial and I be sentenced."

Tahiliyani said no immediate judgment would be issued and the trial will resume Tuesday.

Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdul Basit declined to comment on Kasab's admission. □

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Japan's Prime Minister Taro Aso enters his official residence in Tokyo Tuesday morning, July 21, 2009 for a cabinet meeting. The cabinet agreed to dissolve the powerful lower house of parliament Tuesday, the first step toward national elections that could transform the country's political power structure.

JAY ALABASTER
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Cabinet agreed to dissolve the powerful lower house

of parliament Tuesday, the first step toward national elections that could transform the country's political power structure.

Associated Press

Japan Cabinet approves dissolution of parliament

Parliament was widely expected to formally disband Tuesday afternoon.

The Liberal Democrats have maintained a majority in the lower house for most of the past 50 years, allowing them to dominate the lawmaking process and select the prime minister and Cabinet members from party ranks.

After a string of losses by the ruling party in recent local and special elections, Prime Minister Taro Aso last week said he would call the national vote for Aug. 30, the first such parliamentary election for the powerful lower house since 2005.

That election is expected to be a tough test of the Liberal Democrats' power, given that several recent polls have indicated broad support for the main opposition, the Democratic Party of Japan.

Fifty-six percent of voters said

they wanted the Democrats to take power, with just 23 percent supporting the ruling party, according to a poll published Monday in the Mainichi newspaper.

In a poll by the Asahi newspaper, 49 percent backed a new government led by the Democrats and 22 percent wanted Aso's party to stay in power.

The Democrats favor a more independent stance from the U.S., smaller government and more international peacekeeping missions for Japan's military.

The results of the Mainichi and Asahi polls, taken over the weekend, both showed support for the current Cabinet at just 17 percent, while disapproval stood just below 70 percent.

A poll by the Kyodo News agency published Sunday showed that 36 percent of voters plan to cast their party

ballot for the Democrats, with 16 percent to vote for the ruling party. Some 35 percent were still undecided. Under the Japanese system, voters cast a ballot for the party and another for a district representative.

The leader of the party that wins the parliamentary election is almost certain to become prime minister. The Liberal Democrats currently have 303 seats in the powerful 480-seat lower house, and their coalition partner Komeito has 31. The Democratic Party has just 112.

All polls were random telephone surveys taken of eligible voters nationwide. The Mainichi poll had 1,045 respondents, while the Asahi poll had 1,064 and the Kyodo poll had 1,243. None provided a margin of error, but for surveys of that size, they would have a margin of error of about 3 percent. □




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Fujimori sentenced to 7 1/2 years for embezzlement

ANDREW WHALEN
Associated Press Writer

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to 7 1/2 years in prison Monday after he admitted illegally paying his spy chief \$15 million in government funds.

Fujimori sat expressionless in front of the three-judge panel as the verdict and sentence were read. He then told the court that he was moving to nullify the ruling and walked out of the courtroom.

The conviction was the third in less than two years for the ex-leader. He was sentenced in April to 25 years in prison for authorizing military death squads during his 10-year rule. Earlier, he was convicted of abuse of power and sentenced to six years for an illegal search. Peruvian prison sentences do not accumulate, so 25 years is the maximum term the 70-year-old Fujimori can serve. Last week, Fujimori acknowledged making the irregular payment to intelligence chief Vladimiro Montesinos, but he said he should not be held criminally

responsible because he later repaid it with money found in the headquarters of Montesinos' feared agency.

By acknowledging the payoff, Fujimori avoided a drawn-out trial that could damage his daughter's candidacy for the 2011 presidential election. Keiko Fujimori has said she will pardon her father if she wins. During a spirited defense Friday that critics called a campaign speech for his daughter, Fujimori said he was obligated to make the payment to avoid a military coup plotted by Montesinos.

"The true judgment for me is that of the people, who have long absolved me in their hearts," Fujimori said.

The former president still enjoys some popularity for neutralizing Shining Path guerrillas that nearly toppled the government, but a series of recent trials have tied him to corruption and human rights abuses.

During his defense, Fujimori said his previous convictions and the embezzlement case were politically motivated, and he did not expect to find justice in court.

Presiding Judge Cesar San

Martin opened the hearing Monday by denying any political intent.

Fujimori faces yet another trial on allegations that he authorized illegal phone taps and congressional bribes and that he used state funds to purchase a television station to air political propaganda.

As his government was collapsing in 2000 after a videotape surfaced showing Montesinos bribing a congressman, Fujimori signed an executive order transferring \$15 million to the Defense Ministry to defend against a supposed incursion of Colombian rebels in Peru. The court ruled the money was handed over to Montesinos, who moved it to foreign bank accounts and fled for Panama. Montesinos is now serving a 20-year term for bribing lawmakers and businessmen and selling weapons to Colombian rebels.

Prosecutors dispute Fujimori's claim that he found \$15 million in Montesinos' intelligence agency 41 days after the illegal payoff and have called for a separate investigation.

The court also ruled that Fujimori must join three



Peru's former President Alberto Fujimori looks on during a hearing at a courtroom in Lima, Monday, July 20, 2009. A Peruvian court has convicted and sentenced Fujimori to seven years, six months in prison for embezzlement after the former Peruvian president admitted to illegally paying his spy chief \$15 million in state funds.

Associated Press

former Cabinet ministers in reparations payment to the contributing to a \$1 million government. □

EU wants to expand anti-terror data deal with US

BRUSSELS (AP) — EU officials said Monday they are seeking to expand an anti-terror data sharing deal with the U.S. Treasury.

The European Commission wants to give U.S. anti-terror investigators access to European operation centers run by bank transfer consortium SWIFT, EU spokesman Michele Cercone said.

The consortium set up by member banks is responsible for the collection and relay of more than 11 million financial transactions daily between banks and other financial institutions worldwide.

Cercone told reporters that widening a 2007 EU-US data protection deal would help strengthen preventive measures to stop the transfer of funds between known terror groups and suspects.

SWIFT records customer names, account numbers and other identifying data U.S. authorities currently scan in the United States to hunt down terror suspects that transfer funds.

Cercone said the EU executive now wants to widen that accord to include SWIFT centers in Switzerland and the Netherlands. □



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Cotto-Pacquiao bout set for November

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Light welterweight champion Manny Pacquiao will fight Puerto Rico's Miguel Cotto in Las Vegas later this year.

The Filipino will meet Cotto in a 145-pound bout on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand Garden, Top Rank promoter Bob Arum said Monday after finalizing the match between his company's two most prominent boxers.

"There's no messing about with either of these guys, and that's what's so exciting," Arum told The Associated Press. "That's why it's an unbelievable fight, with two guys who really love to fight and don't dance around."

Pacquiao (49-3-2, 37 KOs) has won titles in six weight divisions from flyweight to light welterweight, cementing the Filipino national hero's status as the sport's pound-for-pound champion. Pacquiao pummeled Oscar De La Hoya into retirement last December in his first welterweight fight, and he dramatically stopped 140-pound champion Ricky Hatton in the second round in May for his 10th consecutive victory. Pacquiao also attended Cotto's brutal split-decision victory over Joshua Clottey in New York last June, building anticipation for their meeting. Both fighters were eager to face each other, making the negotiations relatively simple after Pacquiao agreed to the 145-pound weight limit insisted upon by Cotto's physical trainer.

"With Manny, you don't tell him who to fight," Arum said. "He tells you who he wants to fight. He's not afraid of anything. There's a lot of easier guys he could fight, but he doesn't want that. He wants the best, and that's Miguel." □



Beckham confronts fan, gets booed

BETH HARRIS,

AP Sports Writer

CARSON, California (AP) — David Beckham received an ugly reception in his first home game back with the Los Angeles Galaxy, first getting booed then confronting a fan at halftime of his team's 2-2 draw with Italian club AC Milan on Sunday.

Anti-Beckham sentiment ran high as the English star returned after missing half of the Major League Soccer season while on a five-month loan to AC Milan. He was clearly angered by the frequent booing and derisive banners held up in a corner of the stadium where one of the team's fan groups sits.

"I'm not disappointed. It doesn't affect me," he said. "You can't be liked by everyone."

The homemade signs all had messages directed at Beckham. "Go home fraud" read one, with a red slash through his No. 23 jersey number. Another said, "23: Repent," while another read, "Hey Becks, Here Before You, Here After You, Here Despite You." Another read, "Is evil something u are...or something u do."

At halftime, Beckham walked toward the L.A. Riot Squad section and motioned to a fan to come closer. A man jumped down from the seats and was subdued by security before being taken away.

"One of the guys was saying things that wasn't very nice. It was stepping over the line," Beckham said. "I said, 'You need to calm down and come shake my hand,' and he jumped over."

The man was arrested by Cal State Dominguez Hills police for trespassing because he left the seating area, a Home Depot Center spokeswoman said.

"I know there was some turmoil in the corner but I didn't see it so I can't comment," Galaxy manager Bruce Arena said. "Obviously, there were some dissenters in the early going but I think he won over a lot of people by the end."

Continued on Page B12

Contador: Tensions cooled with Armstrong



American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, right, and new overall leader Alberto Contador of Spain, left, are seen during a training on the rest day of the Tour de France cycling race in Sion, Switzerland, Monday July 20, 2009.

Associated Press

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

SION, Switzerland (AP) — The tensions with Lance Armstrong have cooled, and Alberto Contador is now focusing on the possibility that rivals on other teams will try to swipe his Tour de France lead.

The 26-year-old Spaniard used Monday's rest day to lay out his plan of attack — and defense — to keep the yellow jersey that he seized by winning the first Alpine ride in Stage 15 a day earlier.

Contador, who won the 2007 Tour, said his lead over other contenders "looks good" so far, but cautioned: "It's not done yet, we still have a hard week left to go."

Armstrong, the seven-time champion who has come back to the race after 3-1/2 years of retirement, is in second overall — 1 minute, 37 seconds behind his Astana teammate.

The 37-year-old Texan conceded Sunday that his chances of victory on the Champs-Elysees in Paris next Sunday are slim — and pledged to be a faithful support rider for Contador.

"Yesterday, he gave me his support, and I believe him," Contador told a news conference at a team hotel in the Swiss town of Sion, near the start of Tuesday's 16th stage in Martigny.

Continued on Page B13

Nadal training again after knee injury layoff

MADRID (AP) — Rafael Nadal returned to training Monday for the first time since being sidelined by another knee injury. Nadal has been out of action with tendinitis in his right knee since losing to Robin Soderling in the fourth round of the French Open, where the Spaniard had been the four-time defending champion.

Nadal is hoping to resume playing at next month's Montreal Masters.

"Until I'm 100 percent, you have to be realistic," Nadal said. "What's left of the season is going to be difficult because, after stopping for a month — practically two — you lose your rhythm while others continue on competing."

Nadal was unable to defend his Wimbledon title, and Roger Federer instead won his record 15th Grand Slam trophy and retook the No. 1 ranking.

"Without a doubt, I also have one advantage over Federer — that I'm 23 years old," said Nadal, who is four years younger than Federer.

Nadal is returning from a leg problem for the third time since October. □

Matsui lifts Yankees to 2-1 win over Orioles

By RONALD BLUM,
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK – Hideki Matsui homered off Jim Johnson in the ninth inning Monday night, giving the streaking New York Yankees a 2-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

Matsui lined a 2-2 pitch into the right-field seats off Jim Johnson (3-4), extending the Yankees' winning streak to four since the All-Star break. Matsui's only other game-ending homer in the majors was July 17, 2003, against Cleveland's David Riske.

The quiet slugger was mobbed by his teammates when he

reached the plate after his winning shot, and A.J. Burnett got him with a whipped cream pie in front of New York's dugout.

New York (55-37), which began the night one game behind AL East-leading Boston, moved 18 games over .500 for first time since the end of 2007 season (94-68) with its third consecutive 2-1 win. The Yankees have won eight straight home games against the Orioles.

Baltimore dropped to 1-12 on the road this year against AL East and has lost 25 of last 27 road games against division

rivals dating to July last year. Alfredo Aceves (6-1) escaped a two-on jam in the eighth when Nolan Reimold hit an inning-ending flyout.

Nick Markakis hit a first-inning homer off Andy Pettitte, and Eric Hinske's second-inning homer against David Hernandez tied it. The three homers raised the total at new Yankee Stadium to 152 in 46 games, just eight shy of the total hit all of last season at the original Yankee Stadium.

Two Baltimore runners were thrown out at the plate on consecutive pitches in the eighth. Cesar Izturis' one-

Agent: Steve Nash agrees to 2-year extension

By BOB BAUM
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX – Steve Nash and the Phoenix Suns have agreed on a two-year, \$22 million contract extension, his agent said.

Bill Duffy confirmed the agreement Monday in an interview with The Associated Press.

The deal will keep the two-time MVP point guard under contract with the Suns through the 2011-2012 season.

The 35-year-old Nash, entering his 13th NBA season, had one year left on his contract that would pay him \$13 million next season.

The agreement first was reported by ESPN.

The Suns and Nash had been in negotiations for several weeks on a deal that would keep him in Phoenix. He will be 38 when the contract expires. He is expected to sign the agreement later this week. Under the agreement, \$6 million of the final two years of the contract will be deferred, with \$3 million being paid in each of the two years following the expiration of the contract, Duffy said.

The deal was pushed closer to completion last Wednesday when owner Robert Sarver met with Duffy in Las Vegas to sweeten the team's earlier offer.

The Suns lured Nash to

Phoenix in 2004 in a celebrated effort that included a flight to Dallas by then-owner Jerry Colangelo and a host of representatives of the team. When Mavericks owner Mark Cuban balked at re-signing Nash, at age 30, at the amount he wanted, the point guard signed a five-year, \$65 million contract with Phoenix.

What followed were the best years of Nash's career as the maestro of the high-octane offense of then-coach Mike D'Antoni.

He was named the league's MVP in 2005 and 2006 and was a first-team all-NBA

selection in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

When D'Antoni left the Suns for the New York Knicks after the 2007-08 season, Nash struggled with the slower style of new coach Terry Porter. When Porter was fired at the All-Star break and replaced by assistant Alvin Gentry, the Suns returned to the speed game, a factor that no doubt figured into Nash's decision to re-sign.

When Gentry was kept on as coach after the season, Nash made his feelings known on his Twitter account. □



New York Yankees' Hideki Matsui follows through on his game-winning home run in the ninth inning of the Yankees' 2-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles in a baseball game at Yankee Stadium on Monday, July 20, 2009, in New York.

Associated Press

out single and Brian Roberts' double off the right-field wall chased Andy Pettitte. Phil Coke relieved, and Nick Markakis grounded to first baseman Mark Teixeira, whose off-balance throw home was to the first-base side of the plate.

Jose Molina caught it, with the ball visible, reached across his body and put his glove down into the plate, where Izturis slid into the tag. Coke's first pitch to Adam Jones bounced away from Molina toward the Yankees dugout. Molina rushed and threw to Coke for the tag. Roberts appeared to miss the plate as he tried to slap it on a headfirst slide.

Pettitte, 25-6 against the Orioles during the regular season, matched his season high with 7 1-3 innings. He allowed six hits and struck out

eight, his highest total since Sept. 5 against Seattle.

Hernandez, recalled from Double-A Bowie before the game, didn't allow a hit after the second inning and retired 16 of his last 17 batters. The 24-year-old right-hander allowed one run and three hits in six innings.

Markakis homered into the right-field bullpen two batters into the game. Thirteen of the 16 home runs allowed by Pettitte this year have been at Yankee Stadium.

Hinske tied it with a drive off the front of the second deck, his fourth homer in five games since the Yankees acquired him from Pittsburgh on June 30. That was New York's last hit off Hernandez, who needed 34 pitches to get through the first inning and 69 through the following five. □



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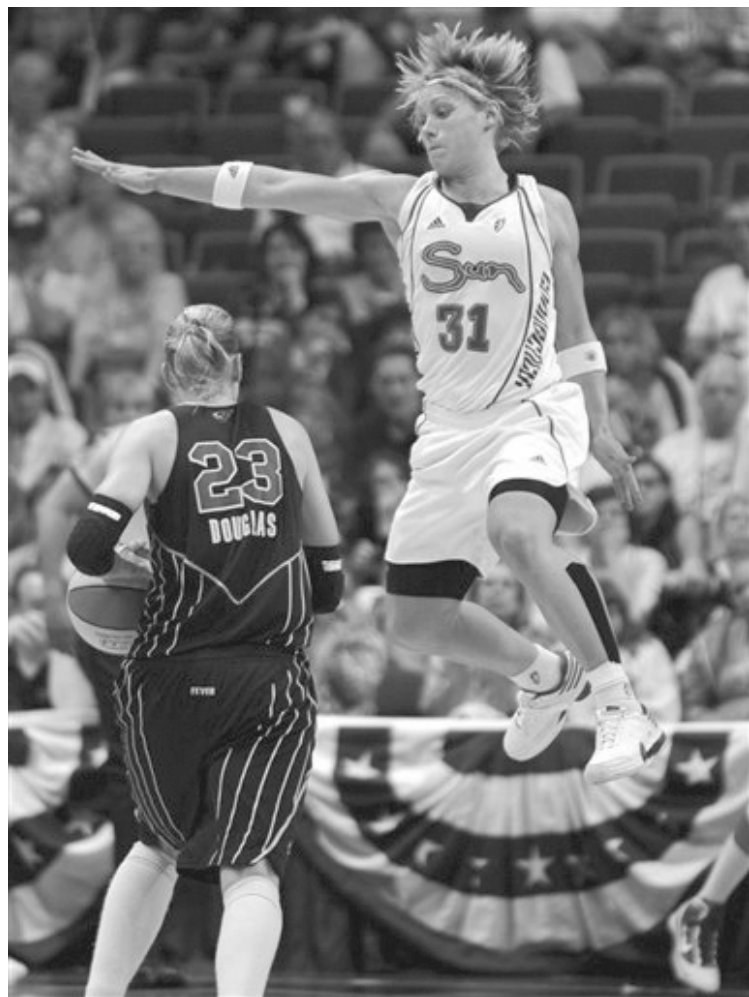
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WNBA Roundup

Sun snap Fever's 11-game win streak



Connecticut Sun's Erin Phillips (31), of Australia, leaps as she defends Indiana Fever's Katie Douglas (23) during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Uncasville, Conn., Sunday, July 19, 2009. The Sun defeated the Fever 67-61.

Associated Press

UNCASVILLE, points, eight rebounds Connecticut (AP) — and six assists as the Lindsay Whalen had 15 Connecticut Sun snapped

the Indiana Fever's 11-game winning streak with a 67-61 victory in the WNBA on Sunday.

The Sun had a 60-40 lead with 4:53 remaining, but went scoreless for more than four minutes. Indiana went on a 16-0 run to get within four until Asjha Jones made a free throw with 22.6 seconds remaining.

Indiana (11-3) had the longest winning streak in the WNBA since 2006.

Jones and Erin Phillips scored 12 points apiece for Connecticut and Sandrine Gruda had 10 points, nine rebounds and four assists. Katie Douglas and Ebony Hoffman each scored 15 points to lead Indiana. The Fever shot a season-low 29 percent from the field.

Liberty 89, Dream 86

At New York, Shameka Christon scored a career-high 32 points, including a 3-pointer from way behind the arc to break a late tie, as New York beat Atlanta.

Janel McCarville added 21 for the Liberty (5-8), who blew an 18-point lead in the third quarter before rallying for the win.

With the game tied at 84, Christon hit a 3-pointer from well beyond the top of the key with 20.7 seconds left.

Sancho Lyttle cut the deficit to one with a putback with 14.2 seconds to go, but Christon hit two free throws to extend the lead. Holdsclaw led the Dream (7-10) with 26 points.

Sky 85, Silver Stars 75

At Chicago, Jia Perkins scored 29 points as Chicago beat San Antonio.

Candace DuPree added 13 points and Sylvia Fowles had 11 and nine rebounds for the Sky (8-8). Fowles had missed five of the

last six games with a knee injury.

Becky Hammon scored 22 points to lead San Antonio (6-8). Trailing by 11 entering the final period, Hammon scored nine points over a 3:30 span to cut the deficit to 72-67 with 3:49 left.

Sophia Young added 11 points for San Antonio.

Shock 69, Monarchs 65

At Sacramento, California, Taj McWilliams had 21 points, 12 rebounds, and a clutch basket in the fourth quarter to help Detroit down Sacramento.

Deanna Nolan and Shavonte Zellous each added 11 points for the Shock (5-8), who have won three of their last four games.

Nicole Powell scored 12 points and DeMya added 11 points for the Monarchs (3-13), who are riding a five-game losing streak and own the worst record in the WNBA.

Storm 72, Lynx 69

At Seattle, Camille Little scored a season-high 18 points to help Seattle beat Minnesota and move into sole possession of second place in the Western Conference.

Wright had 15 points and Swin Cash 14 points and nine rebounds for Seattle (10-6), which snapped a two-game home losing streak.

Roneeka Hodges, Nicky Anosike and Candice Wiggins each had 12 points for Minnesota (9-7).

In other WNBA action it was, Connecticut 67, Indiana 61; New York 89, Atlanta 86; Chicago 85, San Antonio 75; Seattle 72, Minnesota 69; and Detroit 69, Sacramento 65. □



BECKHAM

Continued from Page B10

Beckham was the last player to take the field after halftime. He hugged several of his former AC Milan teammates and then turned toward the rowdy fan section and clapped his hands before making a gesture.

The banners weren't displayed as often in the second half, when a line of yellow-jacketed security personnel stood below the fans.

"A lot of people predicted this kind of reaction," Beckham said. In the 65th minute, Beckham walked toward the fan section to take a corner kick. He sent a bending kick at Bryan Jordan, who headed the ball in to level game 2-2. Beckham turned and faced the fans who had been heckling him all game and spread both arms wide as if to say, "What do you want?" He then gestured before walking away. "Sometimes the supporters don't understand the situation," AC Milan coach Leonardo said.

Boos were louder than cheers for Beckham's introduction to the sellout crowd of 27,000. He was booed the first several times he touched the ball and again during his first few corner kicks.

Beckham left the game in the 75th minute and clapped his hands as he walked off to a mix of boos and cheers. He waved to fans offering a smattering of cheers in an opposite corner before sitting on the bench. "The cheers in the end drowned out the boos, which was nice," he said.

It marked the end of a rough week for Beckham that began with him and team captain Landon Donovan accusing each other of being unprofessional. □

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Bradley Wiggins of Britain, Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, stage winner and new overall leader Alberto Contador of Spain and Frank Schleck of Luxembourg, left to right, climb towards Verbier, Switzerland, during the 15th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 129 miles with start in Pontarlier, France and finish in Verbier, Switzerland, Sunday July 19, 2009.

Associated Press

CONTADOR

Continued from page B1

On his Twitter page on Monday, Armstrong wrote: "Just finished a easy ride on rest day (No.) 2. Beautiful here in Sion, Switzerland. Lots of vines..."

Armstrong wasn't speaking to reporters on the rest day, said Astana spokesman Philippe Maertens. But a week earlier, after the two riders leapfrogged each other in the standings, the Texan had referred to "tension" within the team.

That's all but vanished now, Contador said.

"We have come down a lot from the level of tension, both at the (team) dinner table and on the course," he said.

The Spaniard says his top concern in the punishing final week is Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, a strong climber who is 2:26 behind in fifth place.

Bradley Wiggins of Britain, a strong time-trial rider who has proven his ability to climb at this Tour, is third — 1:46 back — and will be "dangerous" in Thursday's time trial in Annecy, Contador said.

"I still have a small gap with him, (and) he's one of my biggest competitors now," the Spaniard said. "So maybe I'll try to take some more time on him beforehand, we'll see."

Astana's Andreas Kloezen of Germany is fourth, meaning that Contador is counting on two teammates in the top five to help him to retain the jersey. But the Spaniard won't just wait to be attacked.

"I would sleep better if the gap was bigger," he said. "It all depends on how the stages develop. If I can take advantage of some situations (to extend my lead), I'll do it."

Tuesday's 98.8-mile stage from Martigny, Switzerland to Bourg-Saint-Maurice, France, marks the second of three Alpine rides this year — and features the Grand-Saint-Bernard and Petit-Saint-Bernard passes, each more than 13.5 miles long.

Then, Contador expects Wednesday will be the toughest day this week: Stage 17 takes riders up five climbs, including the super-steep Colombiere and Romme passes.

Friday marks a relatively flat stage before the race climax this year — an uphill finish at Mont Ventoux, which Armstrong has called the hardest climb in France — on the next to last race day.

Contador knows he'll need to be on guard, and on form.

"You can always have a bad day in cycling, then the others will attack," he said, "but it's my job not to let it happen." □



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Golpe de Estado Honduras:

Zelaya anuncia retorno a Honduras tras fracaso de negociaciones

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters) - El depuesto presidente Manuel Zelaya planea regresar el próximo fin de semana a Honduras, donde sus partidarios prepararán el terreno con manifestaciones contra el golpe de Estado que lo sacó del poder y observadores temen un baño de sangre.

Zelaya anunció la fecha de su regreso después del fracaso de las negociaciones sostenidas durante el fin de semana en Costa Rica, que llevaron la crisis política en Honduras a punto cero y aumentaron la volatilidad en la empobrecida nación de América Central.

“El próximo fin de semana tendremostodaslasactividades necesarias para hacer mi retorno como lo manda la ley”, dijo en Managua.

El magnate maderero aliado del líder venezolano Hugo Chávez exige ser restituido en el cargo del que fue sacado el 28 de junio a punta de pistola, siete meses antes de concluir su mandato.



“La comunidad internacional tendrá que arreciar sus medidas. La comunidad internacional está frente a un dilema”, dijo el depuesto mandatario Zelaya.

Pero el Gobierno de facto instalado tras el golpe dijo que sólo aceptaría su retorno para ser juzgado por una supuesta violación de la Constitución en la que incurrió, aseguran, al intentar extender su mandato. El rechazo a las propuestas formuladas por el presidente de Costa Rica, el mediador Oscar Arias, profundizó el aislamiento internacional de las autoridades provisionales,

repudiadas desde Washington hasta Caracas.

Arias no tiró la toalla y pidió 72 horas más de plazo para hallar una solución que parece sin embargo improbable.

El agotamiento de la vía diplomática supone un desafío para el Gobierno del presidente estadounidense Barack Obama, que apostaba por las negociaciones para restituir a Zelaya.

“La comunidad internacional tendrá que arreciar sus medidas. La comunidad internacional está frente a un dilema”, dijo el depuesto mandatario.

Arias, Premio Nobel de la Paz por ayudar a desactivar varias guerras civiles en la región, advirtió sobre el riesgo de un baño de sangre en Honduras, una de las naciones más pobres de América Latina.

Tras el fracaso de las negociaciones, la policía hondureña advirtió el domingo que no toleraría que los manifestantes se pasen de la raya.

“Vamos a ser no tolerantes con cualquier individuo que trate de actuar de una manera terrorista en nuestro país”, dijo el portavoz de la policía, Héctor Iván Mejía, a la televisión estatal.

Pero los sindicatos y partidarios de Zelaya se preparaban para

volver el lunes a las barricadas, con cortes de carreteras y movilizaciones.

“A partir de mañana vamos a tomar medidas más drásticas”, dijo el domingo por la noche Barinía Morales, dirigente de la Central Unitaria de Trabajadores de Honduras.

Pero también la consigna del Gobierno de facto parece ser resistir la presión internacional.

¿Cuánto? “Lo que sea necesario”, dijo a Reuters el portavoz René Zepeda. Analistas creen que su meta es llegar hasta las elecciones de noviembre, cuando esperan que un nuevo Gobierno les permita dejar atrás la oscura página del golpe.

“El cálculo de ellos es que van a aguantar estos cuatro meses hasta las elecciones, claramente”, dijo el analista Kevin Casas-Zamora, del Brookings Institution en Washington. □

Lula dice que Brasil está superando la crisis y estará entre los grandes del mundo

Río de Janeiro (EFE) - El presidente brasileño, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, manifestó ayer que los indicadores muestran que Brasil ya está superando la crisis económica global y que, de recuperar el ritmo con el que venía creciendo antes de la misma, podrá convertirse en una de las economías más importantes del mundo.

“Queremos que el país vuelva al ritmo de crecimiento que tenía antes de la crisis para que, en poco tiempo, se transforme en una de las economías más importantes del mundo”, indicó el gobernante en su programa semanal de radio.

“Todos en el gobierno trabajamos con la hipótesis de que Brasil comenzará 2010 con una situación altamente cómoda, produciendo bien, vendiendo bien y recuperando el uso de la capacidad productiva de sus empresas”, agregó Lula en el programa “Desayuno con el presidente”.

Lula indicó que los actuales indicadores económicos están demostrando que Brasil estaba bien preparado para hacer frente a la crisis y que, como había advertido el Gobierno y

“gracias al gran potencial del mercado interno”, sería uno de los últimos en ser afectado por las dificultades internacionales y uno de los primeros en superarlas.

De acuerdo con Lula, tras las medidas adoptadas por el Gobierno para incentivar la economía, facilitar el crédito y estimular el consumo, “estamos obteniendo ahora números expresivos en la producción de la industria automotor, en la venta de electrodomésticos y en las ventas del comercio”.

A este respecto agregó que el empleo formal creció en junio por quinto mes consecutivo.

“Ya recuperamos la mitad de los empleos que perdimos, y eso significa que hasta el final de año podemos recuperarlos y comenzar a generar nuevos empleos”, dijo.

Según cifras divulgadas la semana pasada por el Gobierno, Brasil generó entre febrero y junio 401.254 nuevos empleos formales, cerca de la mitad de los que perdió entre noviembre del año pasado y enero de 2009 como consecuencia de la crisis.

o volvió a crecer. □

Ortega propone reformar la constitución para ser reelecto

MANAGUA - Miles de sandinistas participaron este domingo en la conmemoración del 30 aniversario de la insurrección que derrocó a la dictadura de Anastasio Somoza en 1979, donde el presidente Daniel Ortega expresó su deseo de hacer reformas a la Constitución que le permitan ser reelegido en los comicios de noviembre de 2011.

El mandatario nicaragüense llamó a las fuerzas políticas a trabajar para “tener una mejor Constitución” o recurrir a mecanismos como un referéndum o instalar “otra urna” para consultar al pueblo si quiere o no la reelección presidencial en períodos sucesivos.

El planteamiento fue hecho ante una multitud de seguidores que se congregó en la Plaza de La Fe, en el Malecón de Managua, para conmemorar el 30° aniversario de la Revolución sandinista de 1979 que derrocó a la dictadura de Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

La reforma, según Ortega, también debería incluir a los diputados del congreso para que se establezca si pueden ser elegidos a más de un período.

“Que el derecho a la reelección sea para todos y que sea el pueblo con su voto quien premie o castigue” eligiendo a sus autoridades, dijo Ortega, planteando por primera vez de forma abierta desde que asumió el poder en enero del 2007 su deseo de permanecer en el poder.

Ortega quien gobierna por segunda vez el país desde enero del 2007, estaría vedado a un tercer período de gobierno debido a que la Constitución de 1995, establece la reelección en períodos alterno y por una sola vez en la vida. □

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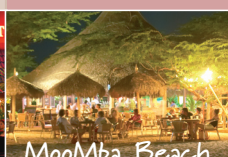
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